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The Truth Speaks

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IRAN WON'T ENRICH URANIUM: TRUMP

Trump says US to 'dig up' Iran uranium, Tehran silent...US Prez says Iran's nuclear facilities have remained under "exacting satellite surveillance" and that "nothing has been touched from the date of attack", suggesting continued monitoring of the sites amid ceasefire

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that the United States will push for a complete halt to uranium enrichment in Iran, which has undergone a "regime change," and will "dig up and remove all of the deeply buried nuclear dust". He added that the talks will also cover tariff and sanctions relief with Tehran, adding that key elements of a broader agreement have already been settled.

"The United States will, working with Iran, dig up and remove all of the deeply buried… Nuclear Dust," Trump said in a Truth Social post, noting that he is referring to the results of the June 2025 strikes on Iran's nuclear stockpile.

"There will be no enrichment of uranium," Trump added, claiming that the ceasefire marked a "very productive regime change".

'Iran's nuclear sites under satellite surveillance'

He also claimed that the sites remained under "exacting satellite surveillance" and that "nothing has been touched from the date of attack", suggesting continued monitoring of Iran's nuclear facilities.

Trump said Washington is already in discussions with Tehran on easing tariffs and sanctions.

"We are, and will be, talking tariff and sanctions relief with Iran," he said, adding that "many of the 15 points have already been agreed to."

"The United States will work closely with Iran, which we have determined has gone through what will be a very productive Regime Change! There will be no enrichment of Uranium, and the United States will, working with Iran, dig up and remove all of the deeply buried (B-2 Bombers) Nuclear Dust," Trump wrote.

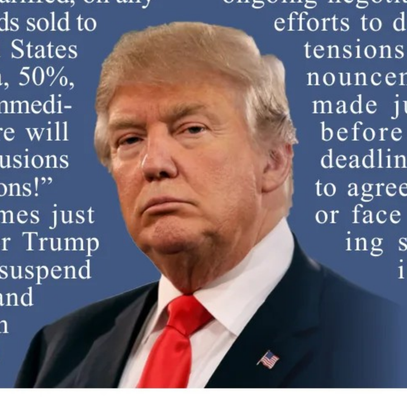
"It is now, and has been, under very exacting Satellite Surveillance (Space Force!). Nothing has been touched from the date of attack. We are, and will be, talking Tariff and Sanctions relief with Iran. Many of the 15 points have already been agreed to," he added.

Trump slaps 50% tariffs on nations arming Iran

WASHINGTON DC

US President Donald Trump has slapped 50% Tariffs on nations supplying weapons to Iran. He stressed that he will make no exclusions or exemptions and all goods sold to America by countries arming Iran will have to bear the brunt of the new tariffs.

In a post on Truth Social, President Trump said, "A Country supplying Military Weapons to Iran will be immediately tariffed, on any and all goods sold to the United States of America, 50%, effective immediately. There will be no exclusions or exemptions!"



This comes just hours after Trump agreed to suspend bombing and attacks on Iran for a two-week period, citing ongoing negotiations and efforts to de-escalate tensions. The announcement was made just hours before Trump's deadline for Iran to agree to a deal or face devastating strikes on its infrastructure ended.

'US will work closely with Iran'

The US will work closely with Iran, which we have determined has gone through what will be a very productive Regime Change! There will be no enrichment of Uranium, and the United States will, working with Iran, dig up and remove all of the deeply buried (B-2 Bombers) Nuclear "Dust".

—Donald Trump, US President

'Ceasefire fruit of Khamenei's blood'

The ceasefire, with the acceptance of the general principles desired by Iran, was the fruit of the blood of our great martyred leader Khamenei and the achievement of the presence of all the people on the scene. From today onward, we will also remain together. Whether in the field of diplomacy, whether in the field of defense, whether on the street scene, and whether in the arena of service provision..

—Masoud Pezeshkian, Iran President

Iran begged for ceasefire: US Defence Secy

WASHINGTON

After 40 days and 40 nights of war, US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth on Wednesday pointed to divine providence while telling reporters that Iran's weapons factories had been reduced to rubble, its military rendered ineffective for years and its supreme leader left wounded and disfigured, all for a temporary ceasefire.

"Iran begged for this ceasefire, and we all know it," Hegseth said Wednesday morning at the Pentagon's first press briefing since Donald Trump announced a two-week pause in hostilities Tuesday night. "Operation Epic Fury decimated Iran's military and rendered it combat ineffective for years to come."

Hegseth said the US military would be making sure Iran complies with the ceasefire and comes to the table for a deal. Troops will "stay put, stay ready, stay vigilant" and be "ready to re-start at a moment's notice", he added.

Standing alongside the chair of the joint chiefs, Dan Caine, Hegseth said strikes carried out in the final wave before Trump's self-imposed deadline had "completely destroyed Iran's defense industrial base". Iran could still fire what it had stockpiled – he acknowledged "they can still shoot" – but it could no longer manufacture the weapons to replace them.

Truce breach? Iranian missiles continue to pound Gulf

UAE INTERCEPTS 17 BALLISTIC MISSILES, 35 DRONES TODAY

Abu Dhabi: The Ministry of Defence announced that on April 8, 2026, the UAE Air Defence Forces intercepted 17 ballistic missiles and 35 drones originating from Iran. Since the start of the brazen Iranian attacks, the UAE Air Defense Forces have intercepted 537 ballistic missiles, 26 cruise missiles, and 2,256 drones. These attacks resulted in 3 minor injuries, bringing the total number of injuries to 224 cases.

DEALING WITH 'INTENSE WAVE OF IRANIAN ATTACKS': KUWAIT

Kuwait: Kuwait's military stated on Wednesday that it has been dealing with 'intense wave of Iranian attacks' from 8 am local time, which damaged power and desalination plants as well as oil facilities. "Since 8 am today, Kuwaiti air defences have been engaging an intense wave of hostile Iranian attacks, dealing with 28 drones targeting the State of Kuwait," it stated on an X statement. It said it "intercepted a large number of these hostile drones."

2 EMIRATIS, 1 INDIAN INJURED IN ABU DHABI'S HABSHAN GAS COMPLEX AFTER DEBRIS FALL

Abu Dhabi: Several fires broke out late last night after debris from an interception fell at the Habshan gas complex. Authorities have now said that two Emirati nationals and one Indian expat have been injured in the situation. Operations at the site have been temporarily suspended, and authorities have confirmed that developments will be shared as they become available.

IRAN-US AGREE TO 2-WEEK CEASEFIRE

WASHINGTON
TEHRAN

Iran and the US on Tuesday agreed to a conditional two-week ceasefire, during which shipping traffic will be allowed through the Strait of Hormuz.

This comes more than a month after the US and Israel launched co-ordinated attacks on Iran, and hours after Trump threatened "a whole civilisation will die tonight" if Iran did not reopen the Strait.

Barely an hour before Trump's deadline to obliterate Iran was set to expire, Tehran reportedly agreed to temporarily reopen the Hormuz. Israel also agreed to the ceasefire, the White House said.

Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif, who has been mediating negotiations, said early on Wednesday that the ceasefire was effective immediately.

As Trump announced he was suspending his plans to escalate attacks across Iran, the US president said he had received a 10-point proposal from Iran which was a "workable basis on which to negotiate".

What does the truce plan mean for Hormuz?

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said safe passage through the strait would be allowed under Iranian military management. It wasn't immediately clear whether that meant Iran would completely loosen its hold on the waterway. The plan allows Iran and Oman to charge a fee of up to $2m a ship on vessels transiting through the strait, according to reports. Iran would then use the money it raises for reconstruction. If peace talks fail, Tehran may again seek to close the strait.

Is Israel part of the deal?

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said Israel supports the US decision to suspend strikes against Iran for two weeks, but that the ceasefire does not include Lebanon.

What will happen next?

Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif, who helped mediate the ceasefire, said in a post on X that he had invited Iranian and US delegations to meet in Islamabad on Friday. Tehran has said it will participate in the talks. The White House said it is considering in-person talks with Iran but they have not been finalised.

US-IRAN TRUCE UNDER STRAIN:

1 Iran halts Hormuz traffic over Israeli strikes in Lebanon

Iran has halted the passage of oil tankers through the Strait of Hormuz over Israel's strikes in Lebanon, as per reports. Two oil tankers were allowed to pass through the strait on Wednesday morning after the ceasefire between Iran and the US came into effect. "Simultaneous with Israel's attacks on Lebanon, the passage of oil tankers through the Strait of Hormuz has been stopped."

2 Israel launches largest wave of strikes on Lebanon

The Israel carried out a large wave of air strikes across Lebanon on Wednesday, with reports of a high number of casualties. Israel described it as the largest wave of airstrikes in this conflict, hitting over 100 of what it called Hezbollah command centres and military sites in 10 minutes. The strikes hit the southern suburbs of Beirut, southern Lebanon, and the eastern Bekaa Valley. The attacks happened hours after Israeli PM Netanyahu denied that the truce between US and Iran covered Hezbollah in Lebanon.

3 UAE, Saudi, Qatar, Kuwait report attacks despite truce

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) announced on Wednesday that it shot down a Hermes 900 unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) over Lar in Fars province, Iranian state media reported, without specifying the drone's origin. The interception comes amid rising regional tensions, just hours after Tehran and Washington announced a temporary two-week ceasefire. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait among other Gulf states reported simultaneous drone and missile attacks.

4 Will exit truce if strike on Lebanon continues: Iran

A day after a ceasefire with the US, Iran warned it would withdraw from the current deal if Israel continues attacking Lebanon. This comes after large-scale Israeli strikes in the region. "Iran is currently considering the possibility of exiting the ceasefire deal due to the Zionist regime's continued violations through its attacks on Lebanon," it stated.

White House: Truce plan published by Iran not the one approved by US

Washington: A US official says that a 10-point ceasefire plan published by Iran is not the same set of conditions that were agreed to by the White House for pausing the war. "The document being reported by media outlets is not the working framework. We're not going to negotiate in public out of respect for the process." "There is only one group of meaningful 'POINTS' that are acceptable to the United States, and we will be discussing them behind closed doors during these negotiations," he says.

'Lebanon not included in truce as Iran claims Israel violated peace deal'

Trump has claimed that Lebanon was not included in the ceasefire between the United States and Iran, contradicting the assertion of Pakistan, which mediated the truce. After Israel launched a massive assault on Lebanon on Wednesday, killing and injuring hundreds of people in densely populated areas, Trump said the Israeli war on Hezbollah is a "separate skirmish" and because of which, Hormuz cannot be blocked.

Human–wildlife conflict: Min calls for birth control debate

BENGALURU

Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar B Khandre has expressed concern over the rising human–wildlife conflict, suggesting the need for broader discussions on measures to control the population of select wild animals.

Addressing the media in Bengaluru, Khandre said certain wildlife species are increasing rapidly in some regions, leading to frequent conflicts with humans. He noted that options such as sterilisation or contraceptive measures could be explored, but clarified that it remains only a proposal at this stage and requires public debate.

He emphasised that both wildlife conservation and human safety must go hand in hand. "We need to protect wildlife, but we must also prevent loss of human lives," he said, adding that similar discussions are taking place in other States as well.

He also pointed out that related matters are currently before the Supreme Court, and any decision would involve consultations with experts and legal authorities before moving forward.

On the issue of forest dwellers, he said the government is considering relocating those who voluntarily wish to move out of forests. Officials have been asked to prepare a list, following which financial implications will be assessed in consultation with the Chief Minister.

He added that such relocation would help expand wildlife habitats while improving living conditions for forest dwellers.

He expressed grief over the death of a coffee grower in an elephant attack, terming it a tragic incident. He assured that the government stands with the affected family and is taking steps to reduce human-elephant conflict.

3 from B'luru drown in Bhutnal lake

VIJAYAPURA: In a tragic incident, three tourists from Bengaluru drowned in Bhutnal Lake while on a leisure trip. According to officials, the victims entered the lake for a swim but are believed to have ventured into deeper waters, where they lost control and drowned. Fire and Emergency Services personnel rushed to the spot and launched a rescue operation. After considerable effort, all three bodies were recovered. The deceased have been identified as Md Hayat (12), Md Haider (32), and Abdul Khuddus (35), all residents of Bengaluru. Police from Adarsh Nagar Police Station have registered a case and begun investigation.

Bypolls: Siddu miffed as EC seeks info on guarantee scheme funds

BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday slammed the Election Commission of India for asking his government to provide details on the release of funds under the 'guarantee' schemes in the Davangere and Bagalkot districts where bypolls will be held on Thursday.

"Our guarantee schemes are not this by-poll-time announcements. These are part of the commitments made during the 2023 Assembly polls," he said.

'INJURY TO FEELINGS'

Called 'auntie' at work, Indian-origin woman wins harassment suit in UK

LONDON

An Indian-origin healthcare assistant employed with the UK's National Health Service (NHS) has won a harassment claim over being called "auntie" by a nurse colleague of Ghanaian heritage.

Watford Employment Tribunal Judge George Alliott upheld that Ilda Esteves was harassed on the grounds of age and sex and directed the West London NHS Trust to pay her a total of 1,425.15 pounds in damages for "injury to feelings". A three-judge panel, which heard the case last year and issued detailed reasons behind the judgment last month, accepted that "auntie" is a term of respect for older people in Ghanaian culture. However, staff nurse Charles Oppong was responsible for leading the teams on the ward and should not have made such comments.

"Auntie" is considered a term of respect for older people in Ghanaian culture. However, once Esteves had objected, continuing to use the term became unacceptable: Judge

"We find that Charles Oppong's purpose was probably an offensive attempt at humour," notes the judgment.

"We find that the claimant did perceive it as creating an offensive environment. We find that the circumstances of the comments being made in the office and in the corridor and at handover were such that it had the effect of creating an offensive environment. We find that it was reasonable for the comments to have that effect. Consequently, the claimant's claim of harassment on this ground succeeds," it reads.

Esteves, a 61-year-old healthcare professional of Indian heritage gave evidence to the tribunal that Oppong used the term "auntie" on a number of occasions despite her asking to be referred to by her first name.

QUICK READ

Driver dies as lorry rams lorry at traffic signal

BENGALURU

A lorry driver died on the spot after another lorry rammed into a lorry parked at a signal at the Mysore Road Satellite Bus Stand signal. Vijay Kumar, the deceased lorry driver (60). The accident occurred around 4 am on Wednesday. As the Mysore Road flyover was coming down, the lorry driver, who was following the vehicles, hit the lorry parked near the Satellite Bus Stand signal from behind. The lorry, which was supplying vegetables to Swiggy Instamart, was coming from Malur in Kolar district to RR Nagar when the accident occurred. The driver of the lorry, Vijay Kumar, was crushed to death in the collision. The traffic police have now removed the vehicle that was involved in the accident. The driver's body has been sent to Victoria Hospital in KR Market.

2 held, ganja worth₹ 10.5 lakh seized

BENGALURU

Police have arrested two accused who were selling drugs behind a boys' hostel in Yelahanka Suburban. The arrested accused have been identified as Muhammad Nishad and Aadesh. 21 kg of ganja worth Rs 10.5 lakhs was seized from the arrested. Both of them were targeting college students behind the hostel and trying to sell drugs. Investigation revealed that they were bringing ganja at a low price from other states and selling it here at double the price. A case under the NDPS Act has been registered against the accused at the Yelahanka Suburban Police Station. The accused have been interrogated further.

'Sexual harassment, blackmail': Woman approaches KSCW

BENGALURU

A woman has lodged a complaint with the Karnataka State Commission for Women (KSCW), alleging that a well-known ascetic from Bagalkote district sexually harassed her and is attempting to blackmail her. Based on the complaint, the Commission has directed the police to investigate the matter. A complaint was filed last evening. I don't know who the person is, but the complaint is from a woman accusing a swamiji from Bagalkot of sexually harassing and blackmailing her by threatening to release her private videos on social media if she doesn't cooperate, the Commission's Chairperson Nagalakshmi told reporters. She said she forwarded the complaint to the police and spoke with the DCP.

PSI RECRUITMENT SCAM

HC quashes transfer of undertrial from Kalaburagi

'Patil, accused in the PSI recruitment scam, was not given chance to be heard'

BENGALURU

The High Court has quashed the trial court's order transferring RD Patil, the main accused in the Police Sub-Inspector (PSI) recruitment scam, from Kalaburagi Central Prison to Mysore Prison.

A bench headed by Justice S Vishwajit Shetty, hearing a petition filed by Patil's wife Shobha, issued this order. This means that RD Patil will have to be shifted back to Kalaburagi jail from Mysore jail.

The bench said that Patil, who is an undertrial prisoner, should be heard before being transferred from Kalaburagi to Mysore Central Jail. He should be given an opportunity to file objections. Transferring him without giving him an opportunity would be a violation of the principles of natural justice.

The bench also said that it was not right to transfer only on vague grounds like security and said that it was not right for the district judge to issue the order without conducting a proper inquiry.

The Kalaburagi District and Sessions Court had on January 27 allowed the transfer of the accused to the Kalaburagi Central Jail due to security reasons. Patil's wife Shobha had filed a petition in the High Court challenging this.

During the hearing, the government's lawyers had stated that the transfer was necessary for security reasons. Therefore, the transfer was made. They also stated that their arguments were not heard. The bench, after hearing the arguments, gave this order.A special team of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) led by Superintendent of Police of the Financial Intelligence Unit Raghavendra K Hegde arrested Patil in November 2023 in connection with irregularities in the First Grade Assistant (FDA) and Second Grade Assistant (SDA) recruitment examinations conducted by the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA).A case has been registered against him under the Karnataka Control of Organised Crime Act (CODA). He was currently in judicial custody at the Mysore Central Jail. He is now to be shifted to Kalaburagi Jail.According to the chargesheet, Patil, a Class One civil contractor from Kalaburagi, supplied electronic devices like Bluetooth devices and walkie-talkies to candidates to help them cheat in the exams. Investigators have alleged that he committed similar fraud in several recruitment exams.

BECC chief wars of stern action against unauthorised ads

'Removal drive to help check menace'

The Commissioner stated that this special drive is a significant step towards controlling illegal advertisements in the city and that such enforcement activities will continue in the future. He urged the public to obtain necessary permissions from the Municipal Corporation before installing advertisement boards, Cooperate in maintaining the city's aesthetics and public safety & Refrain from putting up unauthorized flex boards and banners.

BENGALURU

With the objective of maintaining the aesthetic appeal of public spaces and ensuring a safe urban environment within the Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC) limits, a special drive is being conducted from April 5 to April 13 to remove unauthorized advertisements such as flex boards, buntings, banners, and hoardings, said Commissioner DS Ramesh.

To effectively implement the drive, special teams have been constituted in each zone under the leadership of Executive Engineers. These teams comprise Assistant Executive Engineers, Assistant Engineers, marshals, and Prahari teams. Daily targets have been set, and operations are being carried out on a day-to-day basis.

In the KR Puram Zone, extensive operations were carried out in areas including Horamavu, Ramamurthy Nagar, Vijnapura, Basavanapura, Devasandra, A. Narayanapura, Vignan Nagar, and HAL Airport area, resulting in the removal of 812 flex boards.

In the Mahadevapura Zone, intensive drives were conducted in Hoodi, Garudachar Palya, Kadugodi, Hagadur, Doddanekundi, Marathahalli, Varthur, and Bellandur, where 1,060 flex boards, banners, and buntings were removed.

Overall, during the large-scale operations conducted from April 5 to April 7 in KR Puram and Mahadevapura Zones, more than 1,872 unauthorized advertisements installed in public places, roadsides, drain areas, and major traffic corridors were removed.

The Commissioner warned that installing unauthorized advertisement boards is a punishable offence under the Karnataka Open Places (Prevention of Disfigurement) Act.

Strict action will be taken against individuals and organizations violating the rules, including imposition of fines and filing of cases.

Govt orders mandatory audit of adolescent pregnancies

BENGALURU

The health department has ordered a mandatory audit of adolescent pregnancies among girls, aged 10-18 years, across the state.

The audit will be conducted through the existing public health system to enable early identification of such pregnancies and to provide counselling and preventive interventions through convergence with allied departments. Taluk Health Officers (THOs) have been tasked with conducting audits of every identified adolescent pregnancy.

They will also chair audit committees comprising medical officers, health inspectors, Asha supervisors, Anganwadi supervisors and school representatives, where applicable, to work at the field level.As per the directive, all govt and private healthcare facilities must report adolescent pregnancies on the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) platform.

The audit will assess key aspects including age at marriage, educational status, awareness of reproductive health, access to contraception, socio-economic conditions and linkages with programmes such as Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and school health initiatives.

The government has also outlined follow-up measures, including counselling through Sneha centres, provision of contraceptive services, identification of vulnerable adolescent girls and counselling for medical termination of pregnancy where required.

District health officers and state-level officials will monitor the audit process and classify cases as preventable or non-preventable, while also submitting recommendations for corrective action. Deputy Commissioners at the district level and National Health Mission (NHM) officials at the state level will conduct periodic reviews. The order emphasises strict confidentiality and adherence to child protection laws and will be implemented within existing NHM and RKSK budgets, without additional financial burden on the state.

Weekly phone-in prog to improve citizen services

BENGALURU

With the objective of directly listening to public grievances within the jurisdiction of the Bengaluru North City Corporation, the Commissioner of Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC), Pommala Sunil Kumar, has launched a weekly Phone-In Programme for citizens. This week's Phone-In Programme will be held on Friday from 7:00 am to 9:00 am.During this period, citizens can speak directly with the Commissioner regarding various civic issues such as road potholes and repair works, maintenance of streetlights, door-to-door garbage collection and disposal, removal of hazardous trees.

Former India captain Azhar visits KSBDB, feted

BENGALURU

Mohammad Azharuddin, a popular cricketer of India, former captain of the Indian cricket team, and a well-known politician currently serving as the Minister for Minority Welfare and Public Enterprises in the state of Telangana, visited the administrative office of the Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board (KSBDB) on Wednesday.

During the visit, he held discussions with the Chairman of the Board, SE Sudheendra, regarding collaborative action plans between the two States to promote the development of the bioenergy sector. At the beginning of the meeting, tribute was paid to senior Congress leader and former Union Minister Mohsin Kidwai, who passed away earlier this morning. A one-minute silence was observed in his memory.

The Chairman highlighted that Karnataka was the first State in India to formulate and implement a Bioenergy Policy 2009. He explained the various initiatives undertaken by the Board, including bioenergy Research, Information and Demonstration centers, Biofuel parks, collaborations with Non-governmental organizations, Bioenergy Research and Quality Assurance Laboratories, and collaboration with the Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology.

The Chairman further elaborated that under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, bioenergy development has been prioritized as one of the ambitious initiatives of the Karnataka State Government, with guidance from Rural Development Panchayat Raj, and IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge, efforts are underway to formulate a new bioenergy policy and create a supportive ecosystem for its implementation, supported by relevant data and statistics. Discussions also covered the significant investments being made in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in the production of compressed biogas using agricultural Residue and Napier grass. It was noted that Karnataka has an estimated availability of over 1.52 lakh tons of biomass, with potential for investments exceeding Rs 1 lakh crore and the creation of more than 35,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities.The Chairman of the Board stated that orders have been issued to establish retail outlets so that biodiesel can be made available in the State in the same manner as kerosene is distributed by the Department of Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs. In response to this, Azharuddin said that there are ample opportunities for the development of the bioenergy sector in the State of Telangana. He suggested holding discussions with Danasari Anasuya Seethakka, the Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj in Telangana, regarding the development of bioenergy sector.

The high-level meeting was attended by Managing Director L Shivashankar,, Chairman's advisors Nimmen Deep Singh, K Kishore Kumar, Dr H Nataraj, Secretary to the Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Planning Advisor Dr GN Dayananda and Prasad Rabbapragada.

Karnataka Assembly moves towards paperless functioning with NeVA initiative

BENGALURU

The Karnataka Legislative Assembly has taken a significant step towards complete digitalisation by initiating the implementation of the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA).

Speaker U.T. Khader Fareed held discussions with Dr. Satyaprakash Khathana, Additional Secretary in the Union Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, to advance the process.Following the meeting, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed to begin transitioning the Assembly to a fully paperless system. The move aims to enhance efficiency, transparency, and ease of legislative functioning through digital tools.

Officials said the initiative would streamline legislative procedures, reduce paper usage, and improve accessibility of documents for members.

Secretaries and senior officials from both the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council were present during the discussions, reflecting a coordinated effort to modernise the functioning of Karnataka's legislature.

ALARMING SITUATION

Post-Covid health, lifestyle changes drain blood banks

BENGALURU

There has been a sharp decline of at least 50 percent in voluntary blood donations after the Covid-19 pandemic in the city over the past few years.

Experts attribute the decline to a mix of work-from-home arrangements, shifting lifestyles, and emerging health concerns, factors that have disrupted traditional donation channels in a city where demand for blood remains consistently high.

Explaining the trend, Deepak Suman, camp coordinator at Lions Blood Centre, Bhagwan Mahaveer Jain Hospital, said corporate offices and colleges, long relied on for donation drives. are no longer yielding the same response. Colleges and IT companies are our backbone when it comes to blood donations. Due to work-from-home routines now, we hardly see people coming to the office and donating. In the same companies where we used to get 250-300 units before, we only get 20-30 units now. HR representatives insist on organising the camps for two days, but even then, the collections are few and far between, he said. On college campuses, organisers say students are willing to volunteer for donation drives but hesitate to donate blood themselves. Most students now go to the gym and are very focused on being fit. They think that if they donate blood, they will either lose weight or cannot go to the gym for a long time.

Some change their minds when we explain that it does not have any impact on their weight and they only need a day or two's rest; others still hesitate, said Dr CJ Girish, Nodal Officer, Narayana Hrudayalaya blood bank. Health factors are also increasingly limiting donor eligibility, particularly among younger populations.

DRUGS WORTH RS 27.42 CR SEIZED IN SPECIAL OPS

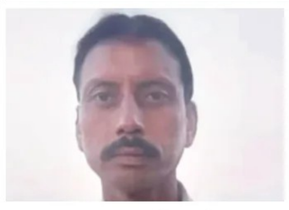
BENGALURU

The City Police, which has declared war on drugs, have conducted operations in six separate police station areas of the city and arrested 8 accused, including four from out-of-state, and seized various narcotics worth a total of Rs 27.42 crore.

In separate operations conducted in Hebbagodi, Yelahanka Sub-city, MICO Layout, Parappana Agrahara, Bagalur, Banaswadi police station limits on charges of illegally selling banned MDMA, ganja, and cocaine to earn money, 8 accused were arrested and 12.91 kg MDMA, 275 grams of cocaine, 34 kg ganja, 40 grams of gold ornaments worth Rs 27.42 crore, the car used in the crime, 2 two-wheelers, and two mobile phones were seized. A case has been registered against the arrested under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and the accused have been remanded in judicial custody, the police said.

A Nigerian-born man named Emmanuel has been arrested and drugs worth Rs 27 crore have been seized on charges of marrying a young woman from Bangalore and running a drug ring in the city.The accused had come to India in 2014 on a business visa.

QUICK READ



Farmer dies by suicide in Hulasur over debt burden

Hulasur

In a tragic incident, a farmer allegedly died by suicide due to mounting debt in Hulasur town. The deceased has been identified as Sangappa Manga (49). According to sources, he had gone to his agricultural field, where he ended his life by hanging himself from a tree. Family members stated that Sangappa was under severe mental stress as he was unable to repay his loans. Local residents who noticed the incident immediately informed the police and the victim's family. Police personnel from Hulasur Police Station visited the spot, conducted a preliminary inspection, and registered a case. Further investigation is underway.

Father, daughter killed in cement tanker collision in Kalaburagi

Kalaburagi

In a tragic road accident, a father and his daughter were killed on the spot after a cement mixer tanker collided with their motorcycle near Syed Chincholi Cross on the city's Ring Road. The deceased have been identified as Rajkumar Maningagol (45) and his daughter Suma (14), residents of the Raneshpeer Dargah area. According to police, the duo were returning home on their bike when a speeding cement mixer tanker rammed into their vehicle. The impact of the collision was so severe that both were trapped under the tanker's wheels and died instantly.Upon receiving information, police rushed to the spot, conducted an inspection.

Accused arrested for murder of woman teacher

Kalaburagi

Police have arrested an accused in connection with the murder of a woman teacher whose partially burnt body was found near Kalamood in Kamalapur taluk. The deceased has been identified as Jyoti Kapale, a resident of Anand Nagar near S.B. College in Kalaburagi. She was working as a teacher at a Government Higher Primary School in Vanjarkhed village of Bhalki taluk. According to police, the accused has been identified as Amar Mallappa Kudalli (27), a resident of Bhumyyar village in Chincholi taluk. Jyoti's half-burnt body was discovered Kalamood, raising suspicion of foul play. During the investigation, police revealed that the accused allegedly murdered Jyoti after she demanded repayment of pending money.

MB Patil predicts Vijayendra, Yatnal's political decline

Vijayapura in-charge Minister M. B. Patil predicts BJP leaders' political decline, expresses Congress confidence ahead of by-elections

VIJAYAPURA

Vijayapura District In-charge Minister M. B. Patil has expressed strong confidence in the Congress party's prospects in the upcoming by-elections for Bagalkot and Davanagere constituencies. Speaking to reporters ahead of polling, he predicted that Congress is likely to secure victories by margins ranging from 10,000 to 15,000 votes, with overall victory margins possibly reaching up to 25,000 votes. Patil attributed this confidence to the popularity of government guarantee schemes, particularly among women voters.

In a sharp attack on BJP State President B. Y. Vijayendra, Patil claimed that Vijayendra's political career could be in jeopardy following the elections, suggesting that he may even be removed from his post. Criticizing BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, Patil stated that the party's decision to involve Yatnal in campaigning demonstrates a weak position and added that even with his efforts, BJP is unlikely to win. "Both Yatnal and Vijayendra's political careers are heading towards decline," he remarked, reinforcing Congress's confidence.

Addressing questions about the alleged sexual harassment case involving a woman seer from the Panchamasali community, Patil emphasized that the matter should follow due legal process. He stated that the truth of the allegations must be determined through proper investigation and clarified that he has no direct connection to the case. "The law is in place, and it should take its own course. The facts must come out through due process," he added, stressing that commenting further would be inappropriate while investigations are ongoing.

Overall, Patil's statements underscored both his party's optimism for electoral success and his insistence on legal propriety regarding sensitive allegations.

Raichur auto drivers protest LPG price hike, halt gas services

RAICHUR

Auto-rickshaw drivers in Raichur protest steep LPG price hike, halting gas filling, demanding immediate administrative intervention.

Auto-rickshaw drivers in Raichur staged a protest against the sharp hike in LPG prices, temporarily halting gas filling services at a local station. The auto drivers erupted at the "Go Gas Filling Station," where the price was reportedly fixed at ₹120 per litre after a fresh tanker supply arrived. This sudden increase triggered anger among drivers, especially as they had already been facing a shortage of gas for the past 10 days.

According to drivers, LPG prices at other stations range between ₹91 and ₹96 per litre, making the ₹120 rate at the Go Gas station seem unjustified. They also pointed out that the price was around ₹84 just a few days ago, and the steep hike has made it difficult to sustain their livelihood. Auto driver Basha said that gas, which was earlier available at ₹89–91 per litre, has now surged to ₹120, increasing the financial burden on drivers. "Many are now hesitant to refill gas due to the high cost," he added.

Auto Drivers' Association leader Jilani stated that the price hike has pushed drivers into financial distress, making it difficult to manage monthly expenses and loan repayments.

SWAMIJI ALLEGES EXTORTION, ASSAULT BY 4 INDIVIDUALS

VIJAYAPURA

Jai Mrutyunjaya Swamiji of the Kudalasangama Panchamasali Peetha has filed a complaint at the Vijayapura Rural Police Station alleging assault, extortion, and defamation by four individuals, including a woman.

According to the complaint filed, the accused have been identified as Triveni, Prithvi Gowda, Yashwant, and M.D. Viresh, all reportedly from Bengaluru. The Swamiji alleged that the incident took place on February 11 near Kaggod village in Vijayapura taluk, where the accused allegedly intercepted his vehicle, demanded money, and assaulted him.

In his complaint, the Swamiji stated that Triveni had first approached him 2–3 years ago along with her brother, introducing herself as a member of the Lingayat community and head of "Ashrita (Pragati) Foundation," claiming to work for poor and orphaned children. She had also expressed support for the Panchamasali agitation and later sought financial assistance for the foundation.

However, the Swamiji alleged that after he facilitated donations, she began demanding large sums of money and attempted to tarnish his image. He further claimed that she accused him of inappropriate behavior, including making obscene video calls and mentally harassing her.

The complaint also states that on February 11, the accused stopped his vehicle near Kaggod, threatened him, and attacked his car when he refused to pay. His security personnel intervened and defused the situation. The Swamiji further alleged that the accused engaged in a smear campaign against him through certain media outlets and social media platforms. He mentioned that he had already obtained a restraining order from a Bengaluru City Civil Court in this regard, but defamatory content continued to be aired on private channels.

Additionally, he claimed that the woman contacted one of his disciples, Rajkumar, and demanded ₹1.3 crore, threatening to defame him in media and social platforms and to file a rape case if the demand was not met. Alleging that the actions were part of a conspiracy to malign his reputation and suppress the Panchamasali community movement, the Swamiji has urged the police to take strict legal action against all four accused.The Vijayapura Rural Police have registered the case and initiated further investigation.

Raichur Police Register 26 Cricket Betting Cases in Four Months

RAICHUR

The Raichur district police have registered a total of 26 cases related to cricket betting over the past four months, Superintendent of Police Arunangshu Giri said. In a media statement, the SP said that from January to April, police conducted several raids and booked 70 accused in connection with cricket betting activities. During the operations, a total of ₹87,110 in cash and 20 mobile phones worth ₹86,400, allegedly used for betting, were seized. Providing a month-wise breakup, he said, one case was registered and ₹4,500 in cash along with one mobile phone was seized from a single accused.

Vijayapura hosts grand Ram Navami procession with vibrant celebrations

VIJAYAPURA

A grand Ram Navami procession was successfully organised in Vijayapura city, marking a vibrant celebration of devotion and culture. Speaking at a program held in Jayanagar Colony of Gangabavadi area, former City Municipal Council member Umesh Vandal said that the Shobha Yatra of Lord Shri Ram. commenced from the Ram Mandir and passed through Siddheshwar Temple route, Gandhi Circle, and Shivaji Circle before culminating near Ambabhavani Temple. Thousands of devotees participated in the procession, making it a grand and memorable event.

As part of the celebrations, an annasantarpane (mass food distribution) was organized at Shivaji Circle, where a large number of devotees received prasadam. Special dhol teams were invited from Maharashtra, and DJ arrangements added to the festive atmosphere.

Uproar at Devadurga Janspandana; MLA demands action

DEVDURGA

A brief commotion marked the Janspandana grievance redressal programme held at the Town Municipal Council office, as residents voiced frustration over unresolved civic issues.

MLA Karemma G Nayak said the programme should be beneficial to the public and ensure timely resolution of problems across all wards. During the meeting, residents raised concerns over poor road conditions, lack of drinking water supply, and inadequate electricity infrastructure. Alleging that municipal officials were not responding effectively, several citizens expressed anger in front of the MLA, leading to a tense situation for some time.

Highlighting law and order concerns, the MLA pointed out the rise in matka betting and illegal liquor activities in the town, stating that youth were being drawn into harmful habits, affecting families. She directed police and excise officials to take immediate action to curb such illegal activities.

She also stressed that the Janspandana programme should not be limited to a single day and warned officials to respond promptly to public grievances or face action. Expressing dissatisfaction, she noted that despite repeated appeals regarding basic amenities such as drinking water, roads, streetlights, and sanitation, officials had failed to act, causing inconvenience to residents.

Officials including Tahsildar Nagamma Kattimani, Alamuddin, Shivaraj Poojari, Dr. Banesh, Devendra Kadekar, Chief Officer Hampayya, and PI Manjunath were present at the meeting. Meanwhile, residents also raised concerns over increasing accidents caused by stray cattle and alleged overcharging for services such as property registration (khata), mutation, and building approvals. Gangangouda Gourampet urged authorities to publicly display the official rate charts for various civic services to ensure transparency.

Afzalpur Congress leaders warn against public disagreements

AFAZALPUR

Congress leaders in Afzalpur have cautioned party members against airing internal differences in public, stating that such actions could harm the party's image.

Addressing a press conference at the Block Congress office, Block President Ramesh Poojari said that if former minister Malikayya Guttedar and senior Muslim leader Maktool Patel have any disagreements, they should be discussed within the party framework rather than through public statements.

Referring to a recent event in Revur (B) village, he said it was inappropriate for Malikayya Guttedar to publicly express support for MLA M. Y. Patil while making critical remarks against his son Arun Kumar Patil.

Poojari also welcomed Maktool Patel's suggestion to provide nomination opportunities to AHINDA communities, but pointed out that it was not appropriate for him to advise the Congress after having supported an independent candidate in the 2023 Assembly elections.

Guarantee Implementation Committee President Prakash Jamadar stated that it was too early for some leaders to make negative comments about Arun Kumar Patil. He urged party members to remain united and work for the development of the constituency until the next Assembly elections, scheduled in two years.

Taluk President of the Veerashaiva-Lingayat community, Chandrashekhar Karajgi, dismissed allegations that MLA M.Y. Patil was favoring only one community. He said the MLA has ensured equal opportunities for backward classes as well.

District Congress Women's Wing President Renuka Singe also defended the MLA, stating that he has been working inclusively. She stressed that making baseless allegations against him is not appropriate and reiterated that any issues should be discussed within the party forum.

Several leaders, including former ZP member Siddharth Basaragid, Siddu Sirasgi, Sharanu Kumbar, Shivanand Gadi Sahukar, Aspak Bandarwad, Shreeshailgouda Patil, Saiyad Patel, Mahaling Angadi, Praveen Kallur, Gautam Sakkaragi, Saifanasab Chikkalagi, and Siddu Kerkanalli, were present at the press meet.

Demand grows to replace Priyank Kharge in Sub-committee

KALABURAGI

A demand has been raised to replace Minister Priyank Kharge as the chairman of the 371(J) Cabinet Sub-Committee, with Medical Education Minister Dr. Sharan Prakash Patil.

Addressing a press conference at the city's Press Club, Dr. Raju Kulageri, President of the Hyderabad-Karnataka Youth Struggle Committee, alleged that Priyank Kharge has failed to focus on the overall development of the Kalyana Karnataka region. He criticized the minister for spending time on national and international issues rather than addressing local development concerns. Kulageri further stated that the region's youth have not benefited in terms of employment and education under the current leadership. He urged the government to remove Kharge from the post and appoint Dr. Sharan Prakash Patil, citing his contributions to the healthcare sector and his development-oriented approach.

He expressed confidence that appointing Patil as chairman of the sub-committee would bring positive changes to the region.

ANNUAL JHELA MUBARAK

Jhela Mubarak celebrated with devotion at Dargah

KALABURAGI

The annual Jhela Mubarak was observed with great religious fervour at the revered Hazrat Khwaja Banda Nawaz Dargah, one of the important spiritual centres in the district.

Namaz-e-Asr was offered at Mehboob Gulshan Summer House as part of the event. This was followed by a Mehfil-e-Sama, where renowned qawwals from various cities captivated devotees with soulful devotional renditions. The session concluded with Fatiha Khwani. Later, the grand Julus-e-Jhela Mubarak procession commenced and passed through Jagat Circle, reaching the Super Market area, where Namaz-e-Maghrib was offered at the Market Mosque. The procession then continued through Saraf Bazaar, Bahmani Chowk, and Haf Gumbaz areas.

The Jhela Mubarak reached Gyarah Seedhi. On this occasion, Dr. Syed Muhammad Ali Al Hussaini ceremonially carried the symbolic structure of Jhela Mubarak on his head into the Baradari, where traditional rituals were performed. It was later sent to be tied to the Gumbad-e-Mubarak. After the ceremonial tying atop the dome, rituals continued with another round of Fatiha Khwani, followed by a second Mehfil-e-Sama, featuring performances by more than ten qawwals. The sacred event witnessed the روضح of several prominent and respected dignitaries, including Syed Shah Yusuf Hussain, Syed Shah Hasan Shabbir Hussaini, Akhtar Nizamuddin, Dr. Syed Mustafa Al Hussaini, Syed Muhammad Syed Hussaini, Syed Aleem Hussaini, and Syed Shah Safiullah, among others.

QUICK READ

Body found in river, murder suspected

Mangaluru

The body of a man, identified as Nasir alias Dakke Nasir, was found in a river near the city's fishing dock. Police suspect murder after noticing injury marks on his forehead and body. Nasir reportedly had past cases of theft and robbery. The body was discovered near a building under construction, raising further suspicion. Pandeshwar Police Station officials reached the spot, conducted an inspection, and registered a case. This incident marks the second suspected murder reported in the city within the last ten days.

Missing swimmer found dead in Tunga river

Thirthahalli

The body of 26-year-old Akshay, who went missing while swimming, was found in the Tunga River on Wednesday morning. He had entered the river and did not return, causing concern among locals. Diving expert Ishwar Malpe and his team carried out a search and recovered the body near the entry point. Police said his mobile number was registered under another name, adding a new angle to the case. Thirthahalli Police Station has registered a case and continues investigation.

Fuel shortage triggers rush at Soraba petrol bunk

Shivamogga

A fuel shortage has caused panic in Soraba town, where five out of six petrol stations have run out of stock. The situation is linked to global tensions involving Iran and Israel. Large crowds gathered at the only functioning station, leading to chaos and arguments. Some customers tried to fill petrol in bottles, but staff refused, sparking heated exchanges. Reports of pushing and verbal abuse were noted. Soraba Town Police Station has taken note of the situation as tensions rise among residents.

Cong intensifies campaign for Davangere by election

Kerehalli campaigned for Congress, honoring Shivashankarappa's legacy, urging youth and women to support Samarth's candidacy

KOPPAL

Congress leaders have stepped up campaign efforts for the upcoming Davangere South Assembly by-election, with party in-charge Parashuram Kerehalli actively reaching out to voters.

Kerehalli, who is also KPCC media spokesperson of the SC unit, participated in door-to-door campaigning in several areas including Gandhinagar, Ambedkar Nagar, Durgamma Gudi, and nearby colonies. He appealed to voters, especially youth and women, to support the Congress candidate.

The by-election was necessitated following the death of senior leader Shamanur Shivashankarappa. Campaigning is being carried out in support of his grandson, Samarth Mallikarjun Shamanur, who is contesting as the Congress candidate.

Speaking during the campaign, Kerehalli said the late Shivashankarappa had always worked for the welfare of the people. He highlighted his contributions to the development of the constituency and his efforts for farmers, workers, and marginalized communities.

He expressed confidence that the people of Davangere South would support the Congress party and ensure the victory of its candidate.

The campaign has seen the involvement of several senior Congress leaders and party workers. Leaders at different levels are coordinating efforts to strengthen the party's presence in the constituency.

Kerehalli also acknowledged the support of state leaders and local representatives, stating that united efforts would help the party achieve success.

He assured that the campaign would continue with full strength in the coming days, focusing on connecting with voters and addressing their concerns to secure a positive result in the by-election.

Koppal officials told ensure drinking water supply

KOPPAL

Dr. Itnal urged officials at Patel Hall to proactively address water scarcity, monitor villages, utilize available funds, secure borewells, and report refusals to district administration promptly

District Collector Dr. Suresh B. Itnal has directed officials to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply across Koppal district during the summer season, stressing that no area should face shortages.

Chairing a review meeting at Patel Hall with tehsildars, municipal officials, and Gram Panchayat Development Officers, he said immediate action must be taken wherever water scarcity is expected. He instructed officials to identify private borewells in advance and sign agreements with owners. If they refuse, the issue should be reported to the district administration.

Responding to reports of water shortages in newspapers, the Collector told tehsildars to closely monitor village conditions through local officers. He asked PDOs to stay alert and ensure timely supply, while Taluk Panchayat Executive Officers must supervise their work regularly.

Dr. Itnal clarified that there is no shortage of funds for drinking water supply. He advised officials to use available resources such as local grants, 15th Finance Commission funds, and tax collections. If additional funds are needed, proposals should be sent immediately.

He also emphasized the need for regular Village Water Sanitation Committee meetings to discuss water supply and tax collection issues. Ensuring clean water was another priority, and officials were directed to test water before distribution and maintain overhead tanks properly.

Municipal authorities reported no water shortage in urban areas including Koppal and Gangavathi cities, as well as other towns.

The Collector also questioned officials about failure to fill lakes after the release of water from the Tungabhadra Dam and ordered notices against those responsible for negligence. Senior officials from various departments attended the meeting.

Devaraj inaugurated census training at Sankar College, detailing online self-forms, enumerator visits, and appointment of officials for smooth operations

Navalgund prepares for digital Census 2027

NAVALGUND

Navalgund is gearing up for the Census 2027, which will help in planning the country's development, officials said. This year, the census will be simple and fully digital, making it easier for both enumerators and residents, said Census Nodal Officer R. Devaraj.

Devaraj inaugurated a training workshop for supervisors and enumerators at Sankar College. He explained that residents can fill out self-census forms online from April 1 to April 15. After this period, enumerators will visit homes to collect information in person. He urged them to work carefully under trainers' guidance to avoid mistakes. Tahsildar Sudhir Sahukar shared that the taluk administration has appointed 157 enumerators, 26 supervisors, nine trainers, 16 additional enumerators, and three extra supervisors for rural areas to ensure smooth digital census operations.

State Government Employees Association president V.D. Rangannavar, N.V. Kuravathi Mutt, G.M. Makannavara, Deputy Tahsildar Ganesh Challakere, Hanumaraddy Devareddy, and other trainers, supervisors, and enumerators attended the workshop. They emphasized teamwork and accuracy in collecting data.

Officials said the census is a vital tool for understanding population trends, planning new schools, hospitals, and roads, and distributing resources effectively. The digital approach is expected to save time and reduce errors, making the process more efficient and transparent. Residents are encouraged to cooperate fully to help build a stronger and well-planned future for the region.

Kerala teen missing near Bababudangiri waterfall

CHIKKAMAGALURU

A 15-year-old girl from Palakkad, Kerala, went missing on April 7 while visiting the popular Manikyadhara waterfall in Bababudangiri Hills, Chikkamagaluru, during a family trip. The incident occurred around 6 pm when family members realized she was not with the group and immediately began searching.

By 8:30 pm, the family informed the local police outpost. Chikkamagaluru Superintendent of Police Jitendra Kumar Dayama said that police, along with the Forest Department, launched a search operation throughout the night. Thermal drones were deployed to locate the missing girl, but she could not be traced by 4:30 am on April 8.

Authorities confirmed that a disaster response team joined the ongoing search on April 8. The operation involves ground personnel combing dense forest areas and valleys around the waterfall, which is part of the Bababudangiri Hills known for its rugged terrain and thick vegetation.

This incident comes shortly after a Kerala trekker was rescued in Kodagu after being lost in a forest for four days, highlighting the risks involved in trekking and visiting remote hilly areas. Local police urged the public and trekkers to remain cautious and informed families about safety protocols.

Residents and visitors near Bababudangiri Hills have been asked to report any sighting of the girl to the nearest police station. The search is expected to continue with additional support from the Forest Department and local volunteers.

Govt fixes support price for safflower farmers

GADAG

The government has fixed a support price for the purchase of F.A.Q quality safflower crop for the 2026 winter season, aiming to help farmers get fair returns.

District Collector C.N. Sridhar, while chairing a meeting at the District Collector's office, directed officials to ensure that more farmers register under the scheme and benefit from it.

He said a minimum of 5 quintals and a maximum of 20 quintals of safflower will be purchased from each farmer. Strict measures will be taken to prevent traders from misusing the system by selling produce in the name of farmers.

Assistant Director of Agricultural Marketing Sudha R. Bundi said the support price has been fixed at Rs 6,540 per quintal. She added that the farmer registration period will be open for 80 days, while the purchase period will continue for 90 days from the date of the official order.

The purchase process has already started along with registration. Procurement will be carried out through central agency NCCF and the Karnataka Cooperative Oilseed Growers Federation.

To make the process easier, 13 purchase centres will be opened across the district, including Mulgund, Balaganur, Hombala, Kanakikoppa, Ranatur, Shigli, Abbigeri, Modalageri, Nargal, Nidagundi, Naregal, Baradura, and Pethalur.

Officials from agriculture, food and civil supplies, and legal metrology departments attended the meeting.

MLA refuses IPL tickets after stampede tragedy

SHIVAMOGGA

BJP MLA S.N. Channabasappa from Shivamogga has refused to accept IPL match tickets offered to legislators, citing the tragic memory of a past stampede. In a letter dated April 6 to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, he said the loss of 11 lives during the 2025 RCB victory celebrations still troubles him deeply.

He stated that accepting such privileges during a time of grief would send a wrong message to the public. "It makes us look smaller in the eyes of people," he noted, adding that he was acting according to his conscience. He also requested authorities not to issue any tickets or passes in his name.

The issue comes amid a broader debate, as several legislators across parties had recently demanded IPL tickets for matches at Bengaluru's stadium. Channabasappa's decision has drawn attention as a rare stand against what some describe as VIP culture in public life.

BJP demands action against Kharge's hate speech

SHIVAMOGGA

BJP state unit coordinator S. Dattatri has urged the Karnataka government to take strict action against Congress national president Mallikarjun Kharge. He called for registering an FIR under the hate speech law, saying Kharge's recent remarks are deeply troubling.

The controversy began when Kharge spoke in Assam's Nilambazar, comparing BJP and RSS members to "poisonous snakes" and suggesting they should be "killed." Dattatri said such statements are extremely dangerous and can create unrest in society. "A leader in a responsible position publicly calling for the killing of crores of BJP and RSS workers is illegal and a direct threat to life," he added.

Dattatri criticized Kharge for forgetting that political differences should be handled through discussions and debates, not hatred. He said Kharge's words reflect an authoritarian mindset and are reminiscent of the dark days of the old Congress 'Emergency.' The BJP leader expressed outrage that such language could encourage violence and division among people. He also pointed out that Kharge's remarks were misleadingly tied to religious texts, saying, "Comparing political opponents to snakes and claiming they should be killed is unacceptable in any context."

District Police organizes open house for school students

CHIKKAMAGALURU

The Chikkamagaluru District Police hosted an 'Open House' programme at Aldur Police Station for students from higher primary school in Haravinagandipalya.

The event aimed at community outreach and raising awareness among children. Students were given a briefing on various important topics, including the functioning of the police department, child rights, protective measures for personal safety, cybercrime, the problems caused by drug abuse, traffic rules, and the helplines 1098 (Child Helpline) and 112 (Emergency Helpline).

It was organized as part of the district police's efforts to engage with the local community and educate young students on safety and preventive measures. The programme included interactive sessions where police officials explained these key aspects in a child-friendly manner.

This event reflects the commitment to building trust with the younger generation and promoting a safer environment through education and direct interaction.

Govt assures auto gas supply is stable

MANGALURU

The Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department has clarified that reports of auto gas shortages at stations across the state are false. Officials said the rumors circulating in some media outlets are causing unnecessary queues and panic among auto owners and drivers.

A minor shortage was noted in a few private gas suppliers, but state-owned companies—Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum, and Hindustan Petroleum—have increased daily supply from 56.67 metric tons to 83.58 metric tons to meet demand. From April 2 to April 6, supplies ranged from 83.58 to 94.11 metric tons per day, showing stable distribution.

The government urged the public not to believe false information and avoid waiting in long lines at stations. Officials emphasized that gas is being supplied systematically and asked citizens to cooperate with authorities to ensure smooth service.

The department reassured residents that there is no shortage and that auto gas availability remains consistent across the state.

SHARE LIFE GENEROUSLY

Blood donation camp held marking leaders birth anniversaries

GADAG

A blood donation camp was organized in Gadag to mark the birth anniversaries of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Babu Jagjivan Ram, with officials urging people to donate blood and save lives.

Deputy Commissioner C.N. Sridhar said blood donation is one of the greatest gifts as it helps save lives during emergencies, accidents, and surgeries. He added that donating blood also brings a sense of satisfaction and helps the body produce new blood cells.

The camp was held at the District Administration Building auditorium and was jointly organized by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, Social Welfare Department, Municipal Council Gadag-Betageri, District Health and Family Welfare Department, and K.H. Patil Institute of Medical Sciences.

National award-winning retired teacher S.N. Bellary praised the initiative and said organizing such a camp on the occasion of great leaders' birth anniversaries is meaningful. He noted that blood donation is a noble act that can give a new life to someone in need.

Many officials and dignitaries participated in the event and encouraged the public to come forward and donate blood regularly.

The program also aimed to spread awareness about the importance of voluntary blood donation and its role in strengthening the healthcare system.

Organizers said such camps not only help hospitals maintain adequate blood supply but also create a spirit of service among people.

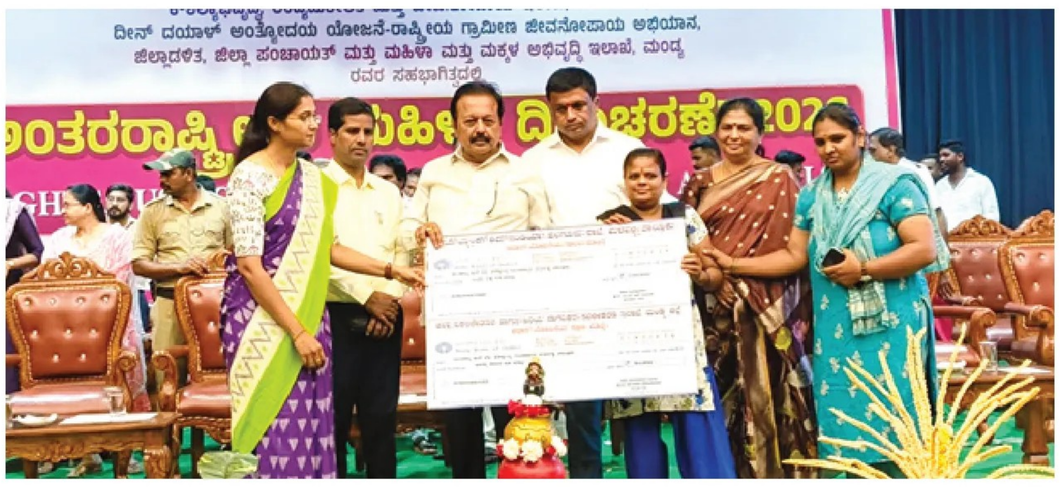
Citizens, students, and staff actively took part in the camp, making the event successful and impactful.

Women's empowerment drives Mandya's bright future: Chaluvarayaswamy

Minister Chaluvarayaswamy urged women to seize opportunities, emphasized education, praised participation, and hailed CEO Nandini as an inspiring role model

MANDYA

The government is taking strong steps to empower women, with over Rs 1.30 lakh crore granted under various schemes, said N Chaluvarayaswamy, Minister for Agriculture and Mandya District In-charge. He spoke during the International Women's Day 2026 event at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavan, organized in collaboration with the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, and Women and Child Development Department.



"Difficulties come to everyone, but women should use the opportunities provided by the government," he said. "Women have had a special role in India since before independence. Education is key. As we say, 'If a girl learns, it is like opening a school.'"

Chaluvarayaswamy highlighted women's participation in teaching, Zilla Panchayat, and Gram Panchayat elections, and mentioned that women may soon get assembly election reservations. He praised District CEO K.R. Nandini, who secured first place nationally in the IAS exam, as a role model for young women.

He emphasized that women's education and active participation are essential for India's economic growth. Plans are underway to open a market in Mandya for women to sell products made under the NRML scheme. Upcoming Gram Panchayat elections will allow citizens to responsibly elect qualified representatives.

MLA P. Ravikumar said national development is tied to women's growth. Vijayalakshmi Raghunandan, Vice President of Small Industries for Women, announced a 100-acre garment project in Basaral to boost women's employment.

CEO Nandini added that Women's Day should focus on empowerment, not just celebration. Programs running from March 8 to April 8 include self-defense, hygiene, food safety, and agricultural training. Sports, debates, essays, and cooking competitions were also held to encourage women's participation.

The event featured stalls by women's self-help groups, a free blood donation camp, and health check-ups. Prizes and sewing machines were distributed to winners of competitions and beneficiaries of government schemes.

District Collector Dr. Kumar and other officials attended, praising the women of Mandya for their growing role in building a strong, empowered society.

Chitradurga officials urged to speed self-census

Kumaraswamy urged urgent self-census participation, directing all government staff, departments, and Gram Panchayat workers to complete enumeration and submit acknowledgements to ensure full district involvement

CHITRADURGA

As part of preparations for the Census of India-2027, Additional Deputy Commissioner B.T. Kumaraswamy has issued strict instructions to accelerate the "Self-Census" process across the district.

Addressing a meeting of department heads at the District Collector's office on Wednesday, he stressed that while the first phase—the preparation of the house list—has begun, public participation in the self-census must be intensified. He instructed all government officers and employees, from heads of departments to Group 'D' staff, to complete their self-enumeration as a priority.

Officials were directed to submit acknowledgement numbers to the District Collector's election branch by next Monday to ensure 100% participation within their offices. Highlighting that neighboring districts have achieved 4–5% progress, he noted that Chitradurga has recorded only 0.64%, emphasizing the need for urgent action.

Kumaraswamy urged heads of the Health Department to involve all staff, while the Education Department should mobilize teachers, Akshara Dasoha staff, and SDMC members. At the Gram Panchayat level, PDOs, secretaries, and members must actively participate, ensuring that Anganwadi workers, helpers, sanitation staff, and outsourced employees are included. Students above 18 years residing in government hostels were also encouraged to register family details online. He emphasized that self-enumeration is simple and crucial for accurate data on household heads, housing conditions, and basic amenities like water and electricity—essential for planning government programs.

The self-enumeration process will continue until April 15, with public registration available at https://se.census.gov.in. Officials and residents alike are urged to participate promptly.

The meeting included Municipal Commissioner Lakshmi, District Health Officer Dr. G.P. Renuprasad, District Census Officer Ravikumar, and senior officials from Social Welfare, Minority Welfare, Horticulture, and other departments.

QUICK READ

Free volleyball, athletics camp begins

Chitradurga

The Youth Empowerment and Sports Department has announced a free summer training camp for volleyball and athletics at Veeravanite Onake Obava Stadium. The program runs from April 10 to 30, with sessions from 6:30 am to 8:30 am and 5 pm to 7 pm daily. Students, athletes, and hostel children are encouraged to join and improve their skills. Experienced coaches Mohammed Mahibullah (volleyball) and Tippanna S Mali (athletics) will lead the training. Interested participants can contact them directly for more details and registration, ensuring a chance to learn and enhance sporting talents this summer.

Man critically injured in car accident

Hassan

A man was seriously injured in a car accident near Malali Bypass, Sakleshpura, while traveling to vote in the Kerala Assembly Elections on April 9. The injured has been identified as Abdul Khader, who works in Hyderabad. His car lost control, hit a divider, and went off the road, landing about 25 feet away with the front crushed. Khader received initial treatment at Sakleshpur Hospital and was later shifted to Mangaluru for further care. Police said excessive speed may have caused the accident and are investigating under Sakleshpur City Police jurisdiction.

Morarji School exam scheduled on April 12

Chitradurga

The Minority Welfare Department will hold the entrance exam for admission to the 6th class at Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and Morarji Desai Residential Schools on April 12. Candidates who applied can download their admit cards from the official website. The exam aims to select students for quality education under the residential school scheme. For guidance and queries, students can contact the nearest Minority Welfare residential schools or the district and taluk information centers. Officials have urged candidates to carry the admit card and necessary documents on exam day and follow instructions carefully.

District Magistrate Venkatesh ordered timely e-asset application clearance, warned officials against delays, emphasizing accountability and potential disciplinary action

District Magistrate visits Chitradurga Municipal office

CHITRADURGA

District Magistrate T. Venkatesh made a surprise visit to the Chitradurga Municipal Corporation on Wednesday to inspect the functioning of various departments. He expressed strong dissatisfaction over delays in verifying documents and distributing e-assets to the public.

During his inspection, the District Magistrate listened to complaints from citizens and questioned officials about the pending e-asset applications. "It is not right to keep applications pending for months. If there are problems, they should be reported immediately and resolved," he said. He directed that all applications be verified and distributed within the specified time frame, without giving technical excuses.

Warning staff about possible consequences, Venkatesh set a deadline for officials to visit each department and clear pending files. He also highlighted that despite having computers and online facilities, work is moving slowly. Officials neglecting their duties may face disciplinary action, he added.

The District Magistrate emphasized the importance of a transparent system so that residents can receive municipal services without any hindrance. His surprise visit created a stir among officials but received appreciation from the public for addressing delays promptly.

Municipal Commissioner Lakshmi, Municipal Executive Engineer Raju, Revenue Officer Prakash, Office Manager Jayanna, and other officials were present during the visit. Citizens attending the office praised the District Magistrate's hands-on approach and said it would help improve efficiency and accountability in municipal services.

Free ambulance service launched for rural residents

PAVAGAD

A free ambulance service was launched to support residents of Vallur and Tirumani Gram Panchayat areas in Pavagad taluk. The vehicle was provided by AYANA Renewable Power Pvt. Ltd. to improve emergency healthcare and ensure timely medical assistance.

The ambulance was jointly flagged off by MLA H.V. Venkatesh and Dharmavaram TDP incharge Paritala Sriram at a program held in Venkatammanahalli on Tuesday. The initiative aims to benefit rural communities by offering quick transport during medical emergencies.

Officials and community leaders said the service will play a vital role in saving lives, especially in remote areas where access to healthcare facilities can be limited. They appreciated the company's contribution toward public welfare and health protection.

Several dignitaries, including social workers Battineni Nagendra Rao and Channakrishnappa, AYANA representative Vaibhav Katharia, PLD Bank President Seshagiri, and other local leaders, were present at the event, expressing support for the initiative and its positive impact on the community.

Srinivaspur plans meaningful Ambedkar Jayanti celebration

SRINIVASPUR

The Srinivaspur Working Journalists' Association held a preparatory meeting to plan the upcoming Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti at the Taluk Journalists' Bhavan. Association President C. Nagaraj chaired the session, attended by office bearers and executive committee members.

Members emphasized that the celebration should go beyond rituals, highlighting Dr. Ambedkar's ideals, constitutional values, and his message of equality and social justice. They said the event should inspire youth and increase public awareness about his contributions to the nation.

It was decided to organize a simple yet meaningful program at the Journalists' Bhavan. During the celebration, a meritorious child of a journalist will be honored for outstanding achievements in academics, sports, or other fields, promoting young talent.

The meeting also assigned responsibilities to ensure smooth conduct of the event. The President urged all members to actively participate, work together, and make the Ambedkar Jayanti celebration both respectful and impactful for the community.

Bidar plans grand Basavanna birth anniversary

BIDAR

Bidar will celebrate the birth anniversary of cultural leader Vishwaguru Basavanna on April 20 in a grand manner, officials announced. Additional Deputy Commissioner Shivananda B. Karale presided over a preliminary planning meeting at the District Collector's office on Wednesday.

The day's events will begin at 9 a.m. with worship at Basavanna's portrait at the District Collector's office. At 10 a.m., the statue at Basaveshwara Circle will be garlanded, followed by a stage program at Pujya Channabasava Pattadevaru Ranga Mandira at 11 a.m. Schools and colleges across the district will also offer prayers at Basavanna's portraits.

ADC Karale instructed the Public Education Department and Pre-Graduate Education Department to organize essay and speech competitions on Basavanna's vachanas in schools and colleges. The Municipal Corporation will decorate important city circles with lamps, maintain cleanliness, and provide drinking water.

The Kannada and Culture Department will arrange art troupes, while the Police Department will ensure proper security for the events. Community leaders discussed further arrangements during the meeting to ensure smooth celebrations.

The meeting was attended by Additional Superintendent of Police Chandrakath Pujara, Deputy Secretary of Zilla Panchayat Sharanappa Kottapagola, Traffic Inspector Ramesh Mailurakar, Assistant Director of Kannada and Cultural Department Siddram Shinde, Dr. Rajneesh Vali, Shashidhar Hosalli, and leaders including Basavaraj Dhannur, Shivasharanappa Vali, Jagannagha Hebbale, Mahesh Golanalkar, and others.

INSURANCE REJECTION NOTICE

Farmers asked to file insurance objections before deadline

CHIKKABALLAPUR

Farmers in Chikkaballapur taluk have been asked to submit objections regarding rejected crop insurance claims under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima scheme for the 2024-25 monsoon season.

Officials said that 284 proposals from the taluk have been rejected by insurance companies as they did not meet the guidelines set by the Central and State Governments. The list of rejected applications has been displayed at Farmer Contact Centres across all Gram Panchayat hoblis, as well as at key government offices.

Authorities have given farmers an opportunity to appeal against the rejection. Farmers must submit their objections along with required documents before April 30 at their nearest Farmer Contact Centre or the office of the Assistant Director of Agriculture.

Officials warned that if no objections are received within the deadline, the rejected proposals will be treated as final.

Farmers have been asked to provide proper documents related to the insured crop. These include land records, proof of crop registration for insurance, receipts under the support price scheme, and proof of sale at APMC markets.

Officials said these documents are necessary to verify the claims and process appeals correctly. Farmers were advised not to delay submission to avoid losing benefits.

The Agriculture Department urged all affected farmers to check the list carefully and take timely action if needed.

For further assistance, farmers can visit nearby centres or contact agriculture department offices for guidance.

Raichur officials urged to fix water crisis

RAICHUR

As summer heats up, Raichur is facing growing concerns over drinking water shortages. District In-charge Minister Dr. Sharan Prakash Patil has warned that nodal officers will be held responsible if water problems are not addressed promptly in villages across the district.

The minister made these remarks while leading a meeting of officers at the new District Collector's office hall near Yaklaspur on Wednesday. With the risk of water scarcity rising, he instructed officials to identify villages likely to face shortages and act immediately to prevent crisis.

Dr. Patil emphasized preparing a list of affected villages and taking urgent steps such as supplying water through tankers where needed. He also asked authorities to ensure fodder is available for cattle amid potential shortages.

Despite Raichur receiving 60% more rainfall than usual last year, the minister said precautionary measures are crucial, as some areas may still face water scarcity. Over Rs. 1,000 crore has already been invested in water projects, leading to better supply systems in many villages.

To monitor and manage issues, control rooms will be established at the District Collector's office, Zilla Panchayat, Tahsildar, and Municipality offices. Nodal officers have been appointed at taluk levels, and appointments at gram panchayat levels are underway under the Assistant Commissioner's guidance.

Dr. Patil noted that preliminary planning has been done with all relevant departments to handle water distribution efficiently from March through June.

The meeting was attended by MLAs Dr. Shivaraj Patata, Basana Gowda Daddal, Hampaiah Nayyam Sahukar, District Magistrate Nitish K, GP CEO Ishwar Kumar Kandu, and Municipal Commissioner Zubeen Mohapatra. Authorities hope these coordinated efforts will prevent severe water shortages this summer.

Separate ministry soon for MSMEs in K'taka

KALABURAGI

Small Industries and Public Enterprises Minister Dr. Sharanabasappa Darshanapur has announced that a separate ministry will soon be set up to manage micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in Karnataka.

He made the announcement while inaugurating the "Kalaburagi Divisional Level Stakeholder Consultation Workshop" on the new industrial policy for MSME units, organized by the Industries and Commerce Department at KKCCI's S.R. Raghoji Auditorium on Wednesday.

Dr. Darshanapur highlighted that several Indian states already have dedicated MSME ministries, and the state government has requested Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to establish one in Karnataka. "Our government is committed to strengthening the economy. By encouraging industries beyond Bangalore, especially in Kalyan Karnataka and Mumbai Karnataka, we aim to attract more industrial projects. Special privileges will be offered to set up big industries here, based on the Dr. Nanjundappa report," he said.

District Magistrate B. Fauzia Tarannum said steps are underway to acquire land for Kalaburagi city's third-stage industrial area. "We are promoting local talent and entrepreneurship. For example, women in Kalaburagi are earning ₹25,000–₹35,000 per month through local enterprises like our branded Kalaburagi Roti," she added.

The workshop invited stakeholders from diverse sectors, including entrepreneurs, industrialists, economists, and startups, who shared feedback on policy initiatives. Honorary Secretary Shivaraj Inginashetti called for better credit facilities, more incentives, and preferential procurement for local businesses.

Additional Director of MSME Department Manik V. Raghoji delivered the welcome address, while Abdul Azim, Joint Director of the District Industrial Center, proposed the vote of thanks.

Dr. Darshanapur concluded: "Structural rules will be integrated into the industrial policy soon. We are committed to implementing a robust industrial policy and facilitating entrepreneurs, fostering industrial growth across Kalaburagi division."

Key participants included Shashikant B. Patil, Abhijeet R. Padashetty, Jambanna Ekalasapura, Vishnudas, and leading entrepreneurs from Kalaburagi and neighboring districts.

FID now mandatory for fertilizer purchase

CHIKKABALLAPUR

In Chikkaballapur, the central government has made it mandatory for farmers to obtain a Farmer Identification (FID) to purchase fertilizers. Farmers must also link all their land records to the FID. Officials stated that fertilizer distribution will now be managed through the K-Kisan software based on this data.

The decision comes amid delays in fertilizer production due to imported raw materials and ongoing Middle East conflicts. Authorities are closely monitoring distribution to avoid shortages. Farmers without an FID are instructed to visit Raitha Samparka Kendras, General Service Kendras, or Grama One Kendras to register, while existing FID holders must update their land details. The system aims to curb black-market sales and ensure fertilizers are distributed according to crop and land requirements. Sellers must record transactions digitally, failing which strict action will be taken under the Fertilizer Control Order, 1985, officials warned.

Helpline launched for rural drinking water issues

MANDYA

The Mandya Zilla Panchayat has launched a helpline to address drinking water problems in rural areas as summer approaches. Residents facing water-related issues can contact the Zilla Panchayat helpline at 9480872005. Taluk-wise helpline numbers of assistant executive engineers are also available: Krishnarajpet – 9480872105/9632769002, Maddur – 9480872110/9611156538, Malavalli – 9480872115/8073869030, Madya – 9480872100/9448331517, Nagamangala – 9480872120/7892595299, Padavapura – 9480872125/9886697412, and Srirangapatna – 9480872130/9900848408. Citizens are urged to use these numbers to report issues promptly.

No shortage of auto LPG in State; public urged not to heed rumours

BALLARI

The Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs has clarified that reports of a shortage of auto LPG at various gas stations across the State are based on misinformation. It has come to the government's attention that auto owners and drivers have been queuing up at gas stations over the past few days due to such rumours. The department has urged the public not to panic.

Officials stated that only a few private suppliers faced minor shortages, which are being addressed by increasing supply through public sector oil companies such as Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPC), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPC).

Earlier, these companies supplied an average of 56.67 metric tonnes of auto LPG daily. However, to meet current demand, supply has been significantly increased, with around 83.58 metric tonnes now being delivered to retail outlets each day.

Supply data from April 2 to April 6 shows consistent availability: 87.78 metric tonnes on April 2, 86.05 on April 3, 84.80 on April 4, a peak of 94.11 on April 5, and 83.58 on April 6. The government has appealed to auto drivers and the public not to believe false rumours or crowd gas stations unnecessarily, assuring that supply remains stable and adequate.

Census drive: District Judge K.G. Shanthi undertakes self-enumeration

BALLARI

The Government of India's important initiative, the Census exercise, has begun successfully, with Principal District and Sessions Judge and Chairperson of the District Legal Services Authority, K.G. Shanthi, setting an example by completing 'self-enumeration' on Wednesday at her office in the District Court.

In this year's Census, greater emphasis has been placed on digital methods. The judge entered her details online through the official Census portal, highlighting the ease and efficiency of the system.

She stated that the Census plays a crucial role in shaping the country's development and future planning. Every citizen has a responsibility to provide accurate information without any discrepancies, she added.

Shanthi noted that digital enumeration not only saves time but also improves the accuracy of data collection. She encouraged the public to make use of the opportunity to complete 'self-enumeration' online and extend full cooperation to the Census process.

On the occasion, Member Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority and Senior Civil Judge Rajesh N. Hosamane also participated in the self-enumeration process and registered his details.

Students lead roadside cleanliness drive in Sedam

SEDAM

Students of the National Service Scheme (NSS) from Government First Grade College carried out a cleanliness drive along Vidyanagar Badavani road in Sedam town. About 30 students, guided by NSS officers Dr. Anil Andolakar, Dr. Ravindra Kumbara, and Dr. Lakshmi, cleared garbage, spread soil in low-lying areas, and tidied the roadside.

The disciplined work and teamwork of the students impressed local residents. College principals Dr. Pandita BK, Ashok Kumar Bennur, Dr. Chandrashekar Chikki Gowda, Dr. Kapila Dev, and Dr. Gyanamitra joined the event, supporting the initiative and encouraging students to continue such social service activities.

82 protesters booked for locking Panchayat office

RAICHUR

A total of 82 people have been booked by the police for locking the Sarjapur Gram Panchayat office in Lingasuguru taluk during a protest demanding drinking water supply. The case was registered at the town police station following a complaint by PDO Shobharani.

According to the complaint, the protesters arrived at the Panchayat office on April 3 around 10:50 am without prior permission or notice. They allegedly broke the office lock when officials did not hand over the keys and disrupted government duties.

The complaint further stated that the protesters abused officers, grabbed them, and threatened their lives while obstructing official work. Among those named in the case are Nijaguni Gunte and Gurucharandham from Sarjapur village.

Police have initiated further action against all accused to investigate the incident and ensure that government operations can continue without disruption.

Rare Veeragallu discovery sheds light on local history

TUMKUR

A rare 'Thurugol Veeragallu' of historical importance has been discovered in Hoysalakatte village near Huliyaru in Chikkanayakanahalli taluk, offering new insights into the region's past.

The stone inscription was found on private land about 500 meters from the village bus stand. Historians say such Veeragallu stones were erected in memory of heroes who sacrificed their lives protecting cattle, which were considered valuable wealth in ancient times.

The carving on the stone shows a warrior holding an axe, with cows depicted behind him. Symbols of the sun and moon are also seen above, signifying that the hero's fame should last forever.

At the bottom of the stone, a two-line inscription in old Kannada script mentions a hero from a place called Oddahalli who died while defending cattle. It also records that land was donated for the welfare of the hero's family and for maintaining the memorial.

Earlier, the stone had gone unnoticed by villagers. Recently, an awareness program was organized by a Government First Grade College and the Karnataka History Academy to highlight its importance.

Students and researchers visited the site and studied the inscription. Research student Satish Kumar Nayak said preserving such monuments is important to understand the bravery and culture of ancestors.

Faculty members and students took part in the study and urged authorities and locals to protect the site for future generations.

Free health check-up camp held in Bidar

BIDAR

A free health check-up camp was organized in Chintalagera village in Bidar South constituency to provide timely medical care to rural residents. The camp was inaugurated by Dr. Shailendra Beldale, MLA of Bidar South, who emphasized the importance of good health. "Health is the biggest wealth of our life. No matter how much we earn, it has no value without good health. Villagers should take care of themselves and get regular check-ups," Dr. Beldale said.

The camp was organized by the Rotary Club and Anjali Kotaraki Charitable Trust to offer free health screenings, medical advice, and treatment. Dr. Beldale highlighted that many illnesses can be treated successfully if detected early and urged villagers to make full use of the camp. He also praised the organizers, saying, "Their selfless efforts to serve the community are truly commendable." Dr. Beldale appealed to all villagers to participate in the camp and take proactive steps towards a healthier lifestyle. Community leaders including Shankara Kotaraki, Havashetty Patil, Jagadish Khooba, Dr. Rajashekar Sedankar, Dr. Rajashekar Patil, Basavakumar Patil, Anil Beeradar, Suresh Patil, Girish Kulkarni, Shivagonda, Gopal Reddy, and Jagana Reddy attended the camp. Nagesh Sidda, media coordinator for Dr. Beldale, noted that the event received a positive response, with many villagers undergoing check-ups and seeking advice from the doctors present.

NAME CHANGE

I, **VARUN BALAKISHNAPPA**, S/o Balakrishnappa, resident of Muthasandra, via Varthur Post, Bangalore-560087, have changed my name to **VARUN BALAKRISHNAPPA**, vide affidavit dated: 02.04.2026, before Notary S SAMUEL SOLOMON, Bangalore

NAME CHANGE

I, **MANGALI BAI**, W/o. Lalchand Dhiraj Kumar Bhandari, Resident of No. 27 East Circle Road, V V Puram, Bengaluru - 560004, Karnataka, have changed my name to **MANGALI BHANDARI**, vide affidavit dated: 08.02.2026 before notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

I, **Prathibha. V**, W/o Deepak.G.K, R/at No.732, Housing Board, V.V.Puram, Gowribidanur City, Chikkaballapur District-561208. have lost the ORIGINAL REGISTERED SALE DEED, dated:09-06-2020, vide Sub-Registrar, Gowribidanur, vide Regd. **No.GBD-1-01247/2020-21, in CD No.GBDD492,** In respect of site property bearing **Assessment No.3325/15 e-khatha No.52-1002-15** measuring EW 12.19 meter NS 11.36 meter situated Puttapurlahalli,ward No.28, Gowribidanur city dated:09-06-2020 executed by **Smt.Rathnamma** W/o Late.D.Ramaiah and **Smt. Shanthamma** W/o Late. B.C.Ganganayak, in favour of **Smt. Sujatha.N** W/o N. Ramakrishna Reddy, residing in Nanjayyagarlahalli Villge, Nagaragere Hobli Gowribidanur Taluk, Chikkaballapur District, and ORIGINAL SALE DEED, while I am in K.S.R.T.C. Bus Stand, Gowribidanur City on **13-03-2026** at 05:54 P.M. I have lodged a complaint through online vide Serial No.2136760/2026, dated: 02-04-2026. any person who found the missing original SALE DEED request to contact: **8861336021.**

NAME CHANGE

I, **SRINIVAS VENKATASWAMY**, S/o Venkataswamy, resident of Chikkathirupathi Post, Bagur Rural-563160, have changed my name to **SRINIVASA VENKATASWAMY**, vide affidavit dated: 03.04.2026, before Notary S SAMUEL SOLOMON, Bangalore.

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
C.MIS.NO.172/2026

Smt. Gangamma
W/o Late Doddamaddurappa
Aged about 73 years,
R/at Beedikere Village,
Tubagere Hobli,
Doddaballapura Taluk,
Bengaluru Rural District and others.
...Petitioners

Vs

Registrar of Birth and death
The Tahsildar
Doddaballapura Taluk
Doddaballapura and others.
..Respondent

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioners has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) and 14 of Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the Husband of petitioner No.1 and father of petitioner No.2 to 5 and Respondent No.2 & 3 by name Late Doddamaddurappa S/o Late Muniyappa who died on 14.03.2012 at Beedikere Village, Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 11.5.26. In default this matter will be heard and disposed off as ex-parte order.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 8th day of April, 2026.

Date:8-4-2026 **By Order of the Court**
Chief Ministerial Officer
Prl Civil Judge & JMFC
Doddaballapura

Advocate
T.G. Vijayakumar
#35, 2nd Main, Priyadarshini Layout,
Palanajogihalli,
Doddaballapur Town.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Sri. Kemparaj K, S/o Dodda Kempaiah, Aged about 44 years, Residing at No.46, Basaveshwara Nagar new Extension, Kenkeri, Kanakapura Town, Kanakapura Taluk, Bengaluru South District, do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as follows:

1. I am a permanent resident of the above- mentioned address.
2. In my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 8316 2156 6618, my name is entered as "KEMPARAJ K S/O DODDA KEMPAIAH".
3. In my Voter ID Card bearing No. ZVG3525557, my name is entered as "KEMPARAJ K S/O DODDA KEMPAIAH".
4. In my PAN Card bearing No. CDMPK6648B, my name is entered as "KEMPARAJ K S/O DODDA.KEMPAIAH".
5. I further submit that where as In all my other records and documents, my name is entered as "KEMPARAJ K S/O DODDA KEMPAIAH".
6. As per the advice of astrologer and family elders, I have decided to change my name as "D KEMPRAJU GOWDA S/O DODDA KEMPAIAH".
7. Henceforth, my name shall be continued in future as "D KEMPRAJU GOWDA S/O DODDA KEMPAIAH" and I shall be known, called, and recognized by this name for all purposes.
8. I hereby declare that the names "KEMPARAJ K" and "D KEMPRAJU GOWDA" refers to one and the same person, that is myself.
9. I further declare that from now onwards I shall sign and use my name as "D KEMPRAJU GOWDA" in all my records, documents, and future transactions.

The above statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge information and belief. If any information found to be false, I shall be liable for legal action

Place: Kanakapura DEPONENT
Date: 8/4/26

SWORN TO BEFORE ME
RAMACHANDRA B.Sc.,LLD
Advocate & Notary
M.G.Road, Opp:PWD Office
KANAKAPURA-562117

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the General Public that our Client is intending to purchase the residential Site property bearing No.51/A, formed in Sy. No. 66/3, 66/4 and etc., in the layout formed by NGEF Employees House Building Co-operative Society Limited, situated at Nagashettyhalli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bengaluru, as per the approval of Bangalore Development Authority, vide Letter No. BDA/JPT/619/74-75, dated 06.07.1974, Now within the limits of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Ward No.19-Sanjaynagar, which is more fully described in the Schedule hereunder as the "SCHEDULE PROPERTY" from its Owner Sri. I. AROCKIANATHAN, aged about 73 years, S/o Sri. Irudayanathan, residing at No.743-44, Maria Nivas, 1st Cross, Chowdeshwari Layout, Marathahalli, Bengaluru- 560 037. The Owner has represented to our Client that he is the sole and absolute owner of the Schedule Property having unrestricted rights of alienation over the same. The Owner has further represented to our Client that the Schedule Property is free from all encumbrances, charge, lien, litigations and/ or any third party rights/ claims of any nature whatsoever.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that if any person/s, having/any claim or asserting any right, title, interest or claim, has any pending litigation, or any ex-parte decree, tenancy, mortgage, charge, lien or demand or any other interest of whatsoever nature in or upon the Schedule Property or any part thereof, the same may be brought to the notice of the undersigned in writing together with all details and documents in support of such claim within 05 (FIVE) days from the date of this Notice, failing which, it shall be deemed that the aforesaid Owner has a clear and marketable title to the Schedule Property and that none else has any right, title, interest or claim whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property; and our Client would be at liberty to proceed to enter into and complete the intended transaction in respect of the Schedule Property. Any objections and/or claims received after the expiry of the stipulated period shall neither be entertained nor be binding on our Client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the residential Site property bearing No.51/A, formed in Sy. No. 66/3, 66/4 and etc., in the layout formed by NGEF Employees House Building Co-operative Society Limited, situated at Nagashettyhalli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bengaluru, as per the approval of Bangalore Development Authority, vide Letter No. BDA/JPT/619/74-75, dated 06.07.1974, Now within the limits of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Ward No.19-Sanjaynagar, Measuring East: 62.6 feet, West: 65 feet, North: 35 feet and South:58 feet, totally measuring 2966 Sq. ft., and bounded on: East by: Site No.52, West by: Private Property, North by:Road, South by:P & T Layout.

Date : 08/04/2026 Sd/-
Place: Bengaluru **(N Shiva Kumar)**
Advocate / Partner
Shiva & Shiva, Advocates, No: 11, Shiva Krupa, 2nd Floor, Above SBI Bank, 19th Main, Rajajinagar 2nd Block Bangalore - 560 010, Ph: 080-23323131

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MAHESH S/o LATE SHAMBHANNA, R/o Megalpete, Mudigere, Chickmagalur, Karnataka-577132, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MAHESWARASWAMY H S.

DOCUMENT LOST

I, Sakthivel S. S/o Mallika R/a No. 11/41, Kare Gowda Layout, Kanaka Nagar, K. Channasandra, Horamavu, Bangalore-560 043 have lost **Original Sale Deed Document No. HBB-1-01793-2014-15 CD No. HBBD158** date of **Registration 26-6-2014** vide **FIR** bearing No.**0350/2018** dated **24-7-2018** at Ramamurthy Nagar Police Station.
Finders please contact: 72228 76777 or inform near by Police Station

CHANGE OF NAME

I, HUSSAIN ATTAR S/o SHAIKH ALAUDDIN, R/o Taluka Aland, Yelsangi, Aland, Kalaburagi, Karnataka-585236, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHAIK HUSAIN.

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact:
080-41209042

QUICK READ

Kharge apologizes after 'Illiterate Gujaratis' remark

New Delhi
Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge expressed regret over his recent comments in Kerala, where he called some people "illiterate" while praising Keralites as "educated and clever." He said his words were being "deliberately misinterpreted" and that he never intended to hurt Gujaratis' feelings. The remarks drew sharp criticism from Gujarat leaders. Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel called them "highly objectionable" and an insult to Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel.

PMMY boosts entrepreneurs and jobs in Karnataka

Chikkaballapur
The Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana is helping small entrepreneurs thrive in Karnataka. Beer Bahadur Dhami of Chamarajpet started his restaurant with a Rs 1.95 lakh collateral-free loan from UCO Bank. In just 10 months, 'Barun Naati Style Family Restaurant' has grown steadily and employs eight people. He credits the scheme for making entrepreneurship possible and inspiring youth to start their own businesses. Launched in 2015, it provides easy loans to small enterprises .

Small loans spark big dreams across India

Mudra Yojana has empowered 58 cr entrepreneurs, especially women and youth, by providing security-free loans

NEW DELHI

For 11 years, a quiet revolution has been brewing in the small shops and home businesses of India.

The Mudra Yojana scheme celebrated over a decade of success, proving that you don't need a massive bank account to start a meaningful business. By offering loans without asking for security, the program has turned everyday citizens into confident entrepreneurs.

Since starting in 2015, the numbers are staggering. Around 58 crore loans have been given out, totaling more than Rs 40 lakh crore. But the real story lies in who is receiving this help. Women are leading the charge, making up two out of every three people getting these loans. This support has helped many join the ranks of "Lakhpati Didis," becoming powerful financial pillars for their families.

Young dreamers are also stepping up. About 21 percent of these funds went to first-time business owners who previously had no way to get credit. From tiny village stalls to small town workshops, people from all backgrounds are finding their footing. Nearly half of the beneficiaries come from underserved communities, ensuring that progress reaches the very last person in line.

Surprisingly, these small-scale borrowers are incredibly disciplined. The rate of unpaid loans has dropped to a record low of 2.3 percent, proving that grassroots businesses are a safe bet for banks. By offering different loan sizes for every stage of growth, the government is ensuring that no dream is too small to be funded.

Scheme helps women-led businesses boom

GIRIDIH: The Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana is helping people in Giridih district start small businesses and earn their own income. Many residents have opened shops, tailoring units, water plants, and e-rickshaw services using easy, collateral-free loans. Women are especially benefiting and stepping forward as entrepreneurs. Munni Kumari, who lives on Ashram Road, used support from the scheme to set up a mineral water plant. Her business now provides steady earnings and jobs for others. Her family said they once struggled financially but found hope after learning about the loan program and applying through the district office. Bank officials said thousands of people in Jharkhand have received loans worth crores, leading to more self-employment. The scheme, launched in 2015, continues to improve livelihoods and build confidence among small business owners.

Seven candidates changed ahead WB polls

KOLKATA

Congress has replaced seven candidates in its second list for the West Bengal Assembly elections. The party named Tahir SK, Asif Khan, Sunayana Biswar, Chand Sarkar, Pampa Malik, Abu Bakkar, and Tapas Baral for various seats, while Pranab Bhattacharya was nominated from Habra. Earlier, Congress had released its first list for 284 constituencies, including leaders like Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and Mausam Noor. The 294-seat Assembly will vote in two phases.

Terror link: J&K LG fires 2 govt employees

JAMMU

In a major move to clean up the state administration, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha ordered the immediate firing of two government employees.

The workers were dismissed after intelligence reports revealed they had secret ties to dangerous terror groups while working in public service roles.

The two individuals were identified as Farhat Ali Khanday, who worked in the Education Department, and Mohammad Shafi Dar from the Rural Development Department. Investigations suggest that Khanday was linked to Hizbul Mujahideen, while Dar was allegedly associated with Lashkar-e-Taiba. Officials stated that keeping these men in their positions would be a serious threat to national security.

To take this action, the government used a special law known as Article 311(2)(c). This constitutional rule allows the Governor to remove an employee without a standard, long inquiry if their presence is deemed dangerous to the country. A high-level committee, led by the Chief Secretary, reviews evidence from security agencies and the CID before making these tough decisions.

This latest crackdown is part of a larger effort to remove "terror associates" who have settled into government jobs. Lieutenant Governor Sinha has maintained a zero-tolerance policy against anyone working for anti-national groups while receiving a government salary. So far, teachers, forest workers, and medical staff have been removed in similar operations. The administration insists that this ongoing cleanup is necessary to keep state institutions safe and free from internal subversion.

Luthra brothers get bail in Goa nightclub case

MAPUSA

The Mapusa JMFC Court has granted bail to Saurabh and Gaurav Luthra in a no-objection certificate forgery case. Each brother must execute a personal bond of Rs 50,000. They are set to be released today from Colvale Central Jail. They co-own the 'Birch by Romeo Lane' nightclub, where 25 people died in a December 6, 2025, fire. Earlier, bail was granted for the nightclub fire case. Authorities cited negligence and safety violationsas the reason for the fire.

RAJASTHAN CM SLAMS GOVT OVER FAILING SPORTS CENTERS

JAIPUR

Former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has launched a fresh attack on the current state government, accusing it of neglecting vital sports facilities.

In the latest chapter of his digital series, "Intezaar Shastra," Gehlot claimed that world-class stadiums are being allowed to crumble due to a lack of care and staff.

Gehlot specifically pointed to the Rajasthan State Sports Institute in Jodhpur. He noted that while the center was built with modern tracks and top-tier equipment during his time in power, it is now sitting empty. Without the appointment of professional coaches, Gehlot argues the expensive facility has become a "white elephant," leaving talented young athletes with nowhere to train. He also highlighted the decay of the historic Amritlal Stadium, blaming the current administration's apathy for its poor condition.

The former Chief Minister suggested that projects in the Marwar region are being ignored on purpose, calling it an injustice to the youth. He argued that leaving these massive investments to rot is a complete waste of public money. By highlighting these stalled projects, Gehlot aims to show that the current government is slowing down the state's progress.

In response, state leaders from the ruling party have dismissed the criticism. State President Madan Rathore suggested that Gehlot should focus on "contentment" rather than complaining. He argued that the former leader's political time has passed and encouraged him to embrace retirement. Despite the pushback, Gehlot's series continues to spark a heated debate over who is truly responsible for Rajasthan's development.

'Sports promote healthy body, mind'

JAIPUR: Haribhau Bagade inaugurated the Indian Football League at Vidhyadhar Nagar Stadium, encouraging youth to adopt sports for a healthy life. The event, organised by Rajasthan United Football Club, saw participation from athletes and fans. Addressing the gathering, the Governor said sports are not just about winning but help keep the body fit and the mind sharp. He praised initiatives like Khelo India for promoting sports culture among youngsters. He also spoke about football's long history, from its roots in England to the formation of FIFA in 1904. He highlighted the rise of women's football in India.

Udhayanidhi promises big as TN poll battle heats up

TIRUVALLUR

The race for the Tamil Nadu Assembly reached a fever pitch as Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin hit the streets of Tiruvallur.

With the single-phase election just weeks away, the DMK leader delivered a high-energy speech focused on the party's welfare track record and ambitious new promises for the state's voters.

Addressing a large crowd, Stalin highlighted successful initiatives like free bus travel for women and morning meals for students. Looking ahead, he upped the ante by promising monthly financial aid of up to ₹2,000 for women and ₹8,000 coupons for household appliances. He told supporters that the DMK is a party that "proudly fulfills" its word, keeping women and students at the heart of their governance.

The political landscape is more crowded than usual this year. While the traditional battle remains between the DMK-led alliance and the AIADMK-led NDA, the entry of actor-turned-politician Vijay has introduced a wild card into the mix. Meanwhile, the opposition is not sitting idle, NDA candidate Rajasekaran was seen conducting door-to-door campaigns in Tiruchirappalli, promising his own brand of development.

With polling set for April 23 and results expected on May 4, both sides are working overtime to win over the grassroots.

Delhi cops bust fake call center scam

NEW DELHI

In a major win for cyber safety, Delhi Police dismantled a fraudulent call centre in Pitampura, arresting 19 people. The gang allegedly spent months duping citizens across India by posing as legitimate financial representatives from Bajaj Finserv, offering fake loans and insurance policies to unsuspecting victims.

The operation, led by Cyber Police and Anti-Narcotics Squad, followed a tip-off received on April 7. During the raid, officers caught the group including 12 women red handed while they were actively making scam calls.

SPEED THRILLS BUT...

Speeding car hits auto in tragic Bengal crash

KOLKATA

A devastating road accident on the Basanti Highway claimed three lives and left 10 others fighting for survival.

The tragedy unfolded in the North 24 Parganas district when a speeding car lost control and slammed head-on into a crowded auto-rickshaw.

The collision happened directly in front of the Minakhan Gram Panchayat office. Eyewitnesses described a horrific scene, noting that the force of the impact was so violent it tossed the auto-rickshaw off the road and reduced it to a wreck. Two passengers died instantly at the scene, while a third victim passed away while being rushed to the hospital.

Laxman Mondal, a passenger who survived the crash, shared that the auto was traveling toward Kolkata when the oncoming car suddenly swerved into their path. Local police and central forces jawans, who were stationed nearby, acted quickly to pull the victims from the debris. The ten survivors were first taken to a local rural hospital but were later moved to Kolkata for advanced care due to their critical injuries.

In the wake of the accident, local leaders visited the families to offer support and condolences, describing the event as a painful and unacceptable loss for the community. Police have seized both vehicles.

8 die in multiple road accidents across Telangana

HYDERABAD: Eight people lost their lives in three separate road accidents across Telangana, police said. In the first incident at Hastinapuram in Hyderabad, a speeding car lost control and hit a bike and a pedestrian on the Nagarjuna Sagar highway. Two engineering students and another person died on the spot. The victims were identified as Shiva, Sandeep, and a pedestrian.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಚೇರಿ,
ಕಾರವಾರ ಉಪ-ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ
ಎಂಜಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕಾಜುಬಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ-581301. (ಉ.ಕ.)
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08382-226365 ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: acfkwr@gmail.com
ನಂ. ಸಿ3/ಸಅಸಂ/ವಿವ-/ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್-06/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29-03-2026
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
2026-27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ವಿವಿಧ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ 2026ನೇ ಮಳೆಗಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ನೆಡುತೋಪು ರಚನೆ / ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ, ನರ್ಸರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16-04-2026 ಆಗಿದ್ದು, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಕಾರವಾರ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ ರವರನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವದು. (ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08382-226365).
DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/25/26-27 Dt. 07.04.2026

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್. ವೃತ್ತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080-22112809
ಸಂ.ಕಾ.ಇಂ(ವಿ)/ಲೋ.ಇ/ವಿದ್ಯುತ್/2026-27/47 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.04.2026
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ವಿದ್ಯುತ್), ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು KW-4 STD ಷರತ್ತುಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಮೊದಲನೇ ಕರೆಯನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿವೆ.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Work Value (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	Providing VRF Air Conditioning facility to 28 Nos Court Halls in the District Court Complex Building at Mangalore Taluk in D.K District PWD/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT35489	226.21 Lakhs

ಮೇಲಿನ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವವರು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.04.2026 ರಿಂದ 16.04.2026, 16:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹಿಂತಿರುಗಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.04.2026 ರಂದೆ 16:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹಾಗೂ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.04.2026 ರಂದು 12:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು Karnataka Public Procurement Portal ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.
ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು(ವಿ).
ವಾಸಾಸಂ೨/ಉನಿ-ಸಿ.ಪಿ/109/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026-27

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹೂಟಗಳ್ಳಿ
ರೋಟರಿ ಶಾಲೆ ಹತ್ತಿರ, ಕೆ.ಹೆಚ್.ಬಿ.ಕಾಲೋನಿ, ಹೂಟಗಳ್ಳಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ-570018
ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 0821-2001737, E-Mail: ka.hootagalli.cmc@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ನಸಹೂ/ತಾ.ಶಾ/ಸ.ಅ./ಸಿ.ಆರ್-01/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.04.2026
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಹೂಟಗಳ್ಳಿ ನಗರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಗರಸಭೆಯ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಕೆಟಿಪಿಪಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-02ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು kppp karnataka.gov.in ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 1) DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT56752, ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.48.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 81,500/- 2) DMA/2026-27/RD/WORK INDENT56989 ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.50.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.84,800/- 3) DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK INDENT56990 ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.40.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ.ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.67,800/- 4)DMA/2026-27/RD/WORK INDENT56991 (Reserved for SC Bidders), ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.50.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ.ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.42,400/- 5)DMA/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT57080 ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.50.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ.ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.84,800/- 6)DMA/2026-27/RD/WORK INDENT57085 (Reservod for ST Bidders) ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.50.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.42,400/- ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:21-04-2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ, ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ 22.04.2026, ಸಂಜೆ 5.01 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಅಂಗೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ನಗರಸಭೆ ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ.
ಸಹಿ/- ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೂಟಗಳ್ಳಿ
ವಾಸಾಸಂ೨/ಮೈಸೂರು/ಶಿರಡಿಸಾಯಿ/29/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
GULBARGA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES,KALABURAGI
(Autonomous Institution of Govt. of Karnataka)
e-mail: directorgimsgulbarga@gmail.com, Phone No. : 08472-260252
No.GIMS/KLB/Tender/Dialysis/CR/04/2026-27/ 47, Date : 07.04.2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT)
Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences, Kalaburagi invites tender for eligible bidders in bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid & Financial Bid) in e-procurement 2.0 mode for the SUPPLY of **"Dialysis Consumables" for Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences Hospital Kalaburagi** Details are available in the site https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Last date and time for upload of e-Tender in E-procurement platform as follows.
Commencement of download of e-tender form from website :https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in, No.GIMS /KLB/Tender /Dialyhsis/CR/04/2026-27 Date: 07.04.2026 IND No.DME/2026-27/IND2222. Last date for Queries : 15.04.2026 at 05.00 pm, Pre-bid Meeting : **17.04.2026 at 12.30 pm**, Last date for Uploading of Tender in e-procurement platform on or before : **23.04.2026 at 4.30 pm,** Opening of Techno -Commercial Bid: **24.04.2026 at 05.00 pm,** Opening of Tenders Financial bid **27.04.2026 @ 11.30 am,** Tender amount **Rs.2,05,68,590.00,** EMD **Rs.2,00,000.00,** Contact Details : Director, GIMS Kalaburagi veresh Nagar, Sedam road, Kalaburagi 585 105, Office e-mail: directorgimsgulbarga@gmail.com, Land line : 08472-260252 cell:9482093568, Tender Section email: gimstenderklb22@gmail.com Cell: 9972688602
Sd/- Director, Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences Kalaburagi
DIPR/Kalaburagi/13/Deshpande Publicity//2026-27/

QUICK READ

Forest guard killed stopping illegal sand mining

Morena

Forest guard Harikesh Gurjar was allegedly crushed to death by a sand mafia while trying to stop illegal mining near Ranpur Tiraha, Morena. The tragedy occurred as Gurjar confronted a tractor-trolley carrying unauthorized sand. Police say the driver fled after the attack, and a case has been filed. Senior officials are investigating, and the accused have been identified. Political leaders condemned the killing, demanding strict action. Residents and officials warn that such incidents highlight rising lawlessness and the risks faced by frontline workers trying to protect the environment and public safety.

Ladakh police trains aspirants free daily

Leh

Ladakh Police is training 150–200 aspirants daily for sub-inspector and constable recruitment at no cost, DGP Mukesh Singh said. The free orientation program, held in Leh and Kargil, helps candidates prepare for physical efficiency and written tests. Thousands have joined the initiative at Khree Sultan Cho Sports Stadium. Singh said the program familiarizes youths with recruitment standards and procedures, boosting their readiness. A major recruitment drive will soon be launched for both posts, including physical tests, written exams, and police verification. Officials urge aspirants to fully utilize these training sessions to improve their chances.

Cabinet approves fertiliser subsidy for Kharif

New Delhi

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved Rs 41,533 crore for the Kharif season fertiliser subsidy. This is over Rs 4,300 crore higher than last year. The subsidy will cover phosphatic and potassic fertilisers, including DAP and NPKS grades, ensuring farmers can buy them at affordable prices. The rates follow international price trends for fertilisers and inputs. Through the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) scheme, 28 fertiliser grades will be available via manufacturers and importers. Officials said this move aims to support farmers, boost crop production, and maintain smooth fertiliser supply across the country.

INDIA BECOMES GLOBAL LEADER AS STEEL SOARS

India's steel production surged 10.7%, cementing its position as the world's second-largest producer driven by a domestic construction boom

NEW DELHI

India's steel industry has achieved a massive milestone, proving its strength as a backbone of the national economy.

According to the Ministry of Steel, production jumped by 10.7 percent this past year, reaching over 168 million tonnes. This growth solidifies India's proud spot as the world's second-largest steel producer, even while facing global price shifts and market pressure.

The real magic is happening right here at home. Local demand for steel hit 164 million tonnes, thanks to a huge building boom. New bridges, faster railways, and modern apartments are popping up everywhere, keeping factories busy. Government projects and rapid city growth have turned the country into a construction powerhouse, ensuring that the steel made in India stays in India to build a better future.

Trade news is equally exciting. Exports climbed by nearly 36 percent, while imports dropped significantly. This shift means India is now selling much more steel abroad than it buys, sending high-quality metal to Europe and the Middle East. While expensive fuel and global conflicts caused some stress for company profits, big players like Tata Steel and SAIL continue to invest in better technology.

Looking forward, the goal is to reach 300 million tonnes of capacity by 2030. Despite challenges like rising energy costs, the industry remains a shining star of Indian progress. By focusing on "green steel" and smarter manufacturing, India isn't just making metal, it is building a lasting reputation for industrial excellence on the global stage.

Security forces in Shopian averted a major tragedy by discovering and neutralizing an IED hidden along a busy road

SECURITY FORCES SAVE LIVES WITH QUICK ACTION

SRINAGAR

Alert security forces prevented a potential tragedy in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district.

During a routine safety check, teams discovered a homemade bomb, known as an IED, hidden along the busy Zainpora-Chitargam road. Officials believe the device was planted by terrorists to target passing security vehicles.

The discovery happened at dawn during a process called "sanitization." This is a daily mission where specialized road-opening parties scan highways and local paths to ensure they are safe for soldiers, government officials, and everyday citizens. Upon finding the suspicious object, troops immediately halted all local traffic to keep the public out of harm's way.

A professional Bomb Disposal Squad was called to the scene. With precision and care, the experts successfully neutralized the device before it could cause any damage. These types of bombs are often made from leftover military parts or household chemicals and are hidden in clever spots like roadside ditches or under the pavement to catch people off guard.

This successful operation highlights the constant vigilance required to maintain peace in the region. By finding and defusing the threat before it could explode, the security forces ensured that the day's travel could continue without loss of life. After the area was declared safe, the road was reopened to the public. This brave, quiet work remains a vital shield for the community against the hidden dangers of unconventional warfare.

Kerala polls: Cops probe 'cash for votes' in Palakkad

PALAKKAD

Election authorities have launched an urgent investigation into allegations of cash distribution involving BJP candidate Shobha Surendran.

The drama unfolded in the Kannadi Panchayat just one day before Kerala goes to the polls for the 2026 Assembly elections. Acting on media reports, a special "Flying Squad" was rushed to the area to verify claims that voters were being illegally bribed.

According to officials, the squad questioned several local residents, including a 65-year-old woman named Devu, who was specifically mentioned in news clips. While Devu denied receiving any money, the Chief Electoral Officer, Rathan U. Kelkar, confirmed that the District Collector has submitted an initial report. Authorities are taking the matter seriously to ensure no election laws were broken in the final hours of the campaign.

Centre approves giant new power project for AP

The Union Cabinet approved ₹26,000 crore for Arunachal's 1,720 MW Kamala hydroelectric project, boosting green energy, local infrastructure, and flood control for regional development.

NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has greenlit a massive investment of over ₹26,000 crore for a new hydro-electric project in Arunachal Pradesh.

Known as the Kamala Project, this initiative will be built across the districts of Kamle, Kra Daadi, and Kurung Kumey. It is expected to take about eight years to complete.

This project is much more than just a source of electricity, it is a major boost for local communities. The plan includes building 196 kilometers of new roads and bridges that residents can use. Additionally, ₹8 crore has been set aside specifically for new hospitals, schools, and marketplaces. For the local people, this means better transport, new jobs, and improved services right in their backyard.

Once finished, the plant will produce 1,720 megawatts of clean energy. This will help stabilize the national power grid and provide a steady electricity supply for the state. A unique feature of the project is its ability to help control floods in the Brahmaputra valley, protecting homes and farms from rising waters during the monsoon season.

The project is a team effort between the central government's NHPC and the state of Arunachal Pradesh. To ensure the region thrives, the state will receive 12 percent of the generated power for free. With several other large dams also under construction, this move positions Arunachal Pradesh as a central pillar of India's green energy future.

Heaviest portal beam launched for bullet train

AHMEDABAD

The Mumbai Ahmedabad Bullet Train project hit a major milestone with the launch of a 1,360-tonne precast portal beam near Maninagar. Measuring 34 metres long and 5.5 x 4.5 metres in cross-section, it is one of the heaviest lifts ever on Indian railways. Using a 2,200-tonne crawler crane and backup systems, officials completed the operation in just 3.5 hours, reducing earlier planned delays. Careful planning ensured safety amid active railway lines. The 508 kilometre high-speed rail, supported by Japan, will run trains up to 320 km/h. Phased operations are expected in 2027, with full completion by 2028.

Vietnam firm to build smart Maha cities

MUMBAI

Maharashtra is set for a massive makeover following a historic deal with Vietnam's VinGroup.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced an $8.5 billion investment aimed at transforming urban living, green energy, and transport. This marks one of the largest foreign investments in the state's history, promised to create nearly 25,000 new jobs over the next two years.

The centerpiece of this plan is a world-class "smart township" covering 2,700 acres. Designed to house 200,000 people, this eco-friendly mini-city will include international schools and multi-specialty hospitals. To keep the air clean, the partnership will launch a large-scale electric taxi service and build a statewide charging network. There are even plans for a massive 500 MW solar project and a giant theme park featuring a zoo and safari.

In a separate boost for the digital economy, the CM also inaugurated the MB3 Data Centre by Equinix. This $750 million facility is the company's first fully owned data center in India. It is specifically built to handle modern AI services and high-speed internet traffic.

Chief Minister Fadnavis noted that these advanced data centers would prevent government websites from crashing during busy times, such as when farmers apply for aid. Highlighting a commitment to the planet, 60 percent of the energy for these data centers already comes from solar power. Together, these projects aim to turn the Mumbai-Raigad region into one of the most dynamic and sustainable hubs in the world.

India-Jordan relations strong, solid, and growing

NEW DELHI

Jordan's Ambassador to India, Yousef Abdelghani, described ties between India and Jordan as "strong, solid, and based on mutual respect." He highlighted plans to increase bilateral trade from USD 3 billion to nearly USD 5 billion. The ambassador praised the close relationship between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and King Abdullah II, noting regular communications and recent high-level visits, including Queen Rania's visit to India. MoUs in culture, renewable energy, water management, and digital infrastructure were signed. With over 20,000 Indians in Jordan and cooperation in food security, both nations aim to strengthen trade, investment, and diplomatic ties further.

Army chief tests new high altitude chopper

NEW DELHI

General Upendra Dwivedi, the Chief of the Army Staff, took to the skies to personally test India's newest aerial weapon.

Visiting Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), the General flew in the "Prachand," a homegrown Light Combat Helicopter designed to fight in the world's toughest mountain environments. During the flight, he closely checked the chopper's speed, balance, and readiness for real-world missions.

The Prachand is a major pride for the nation because it is built specifically for high-altitude zones like the Himalayas. Unlike many standard helicopters that struggle in thin air, this machine is crafted to stay agile and powerful where others cannot. General Dwivedi's hands-on inspection highlights how important these aircraft are for protecting India's borders and modernizing the military with locally made technology.

This flight follows another major military milestone. Just last week, the General attended a massive air defense exercise. That event showed off how different weapon systems now "talk" to each other digitally to track and shoot down modern threats instantly. It proved that the Indian Army is moving toward a smarter, more connected way of fighting.

After the flight, the Army Chief praised the engineers and soldiers for their hard work. He urged everyone to stay focused on staying ahead in an ever-changing world of warfare. With the Prachand now joining the fleet, the Army is better prepared than ever to maintain control over the skies, ensuring peace and security across the nation's highest peaks.

India boasts record coal production this year

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Coal has cleared the air regarding India's energy security, confirming there is absolutely no shortage of coal in the country.

Sanjeev Kumar Kassi, a senior official in the ministry, announced that power generation remains completely stable. He reassured citizens that massive stocks are currently held at mines, power plants, and ports, ready to be moved whenever needed.

The numbers tell a story of incredible growth. For the first time, coal production and delivery have crossed the 200 million tonne mark. Compared to just three years ago, production has surged by a staggering 88%. This jump is thanks to a 10 percent yearly growth rate, ensuring that the supply of coal is moving just as fast as the country's growing hunger for electricity.

To keep up with this demand, the government has fast-tracked the opening of new coal blocks. In the past year alone, 12 new sites were put into action, adding millions of tonnes to India's annual capacity.

RAJASTHAN REFINERY EXPANSION

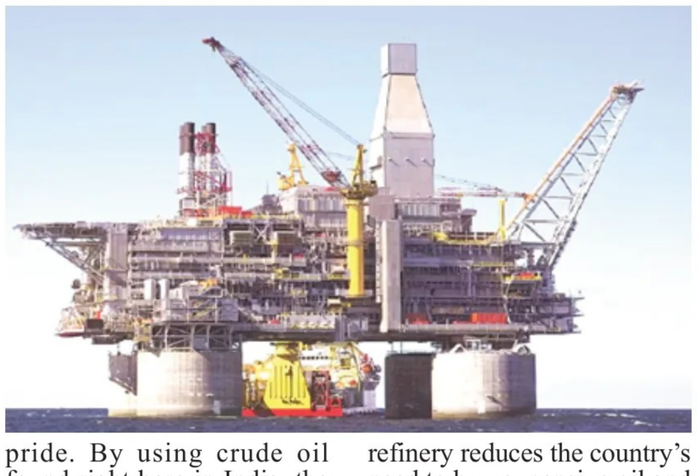
Major investment boost for Rajasthan oil refinery

NEW DELHI

The Indian government has taken a giant step toward energy independence by approving a major budget increase for the HPCL Rajasthan Refinery.

Led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Cabinet cleared a new project cost of ₹79,459 crore. This includes an additional investment of nearly ₹9,000 crore from Hindustan Petroleum to ensure the massive facility stays on track.

Located in Rajasthan, this project is not just a standard oil refinery. It is a high-tech complex designed to turn crude oil into both fuel and essential chemicals. Once fully operational by July 2026, it will produce millions of tonnes of petrol and diesel every year. More importantly, it will create specialty materials like polyethylene and polypropylene, which are used to make everything from medicine packaging and paints to everyday plastic goods.



This move is a win for the local economy and national pride. By using crude oil found right here in India, the refinery reduces the country's need to buy expensive oil and chemicals from abroad, saving valuable foreign money. It also brings modern industry to a developing area, creating a "refining hub" that puts India on the global map.

The project has already made a huge impact on the community. During its construction, it has provided jobs for around 25,000 workers. By combining fuel production with chemical manufacturing, the Rajasthan refinery is set to become a vital pillar of India's industrial future and a key part of the nation's journey toward self-reliance.

QUICK READ

Bangladesh urged to boost women leader's role

DHAKA

Bangladesh faces a sharp gender gap in political leadership, with women comprising only 2.33% of party committees despite voting actively, the UNDP said. A dialogue with the Bangladesh Election Commission highlighted the need for political parties to nominate more women candidates and create a safe environment for their participation. The UNDP stressed that quotas alone are insufficient, urging cultural and institutional reforms to empower women leaders. Officials noted that women's leadership strengthens democracy and can significantly boost economic growth. A renewed UNDP-BEC partnership aims to advance reforms and advocate for women's full participation in public life.

Khalistani extremists target Hindu temples in Canada

OTTAWA

The Coalition of Hindus of North America (CoHNA) has condemned protests by Canada-based Khalistani extremists outside Hindu temples in Brampton and Surrey during Hanuman Jayanti on April 5. CoHNA highlighted harassment of devotees, including children, despite police buffer zones, describing the incidents as a "pattern of provocation." The group urged authorities to ensure worshippers' safety without reducing public security to mere crowd management. While CBKE claims protests target India, CoHNA stressed that temples are autonomous Canadian institutions, and attempts to politicize them violate the rights of Hindu communities.

S. Korea guarantees safe transit in Hormuz strait

SEOUL

The South Korean government committed to ensuring the safe transit of its vessels through the Strait of Hormuz following a U.S.-Iran agreement on a two-week ceasefire. Officials from the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources said they would coordinate with the foreign and oceans ministries to assist seven oil tankers, carrying 14 million barrels of crude, equivalent to South Korea's five-day oil consumption and several other Korean ships trapped in the strategically vital shipping lane.

India welcomes US-Iran truce, seeks 'lasting peace'

India praises the move as a vital step toward global stability and economic recovery, and urges unimpeded trade through the critical Strait of Hormuz.

INDIA

India has officially welcomed a breakthrough ceasefire agreement between the United States and Iran, expressing hope that the deal marks the beginning of "lasting peace" in West Asia.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) issued a statement, praising the move as a vital step toward global stability and economic recovery.

The diplomatic breakthrough followed a dramatic announcement by US President Donald Trump, who declared a conditional two-week pause in military operations.

This decision came just ninety minutes before a self-imposed deadline, following intense backchannel negotiations. Trump noted that Iran had provided a "ten-point proposal" that offers a workable basis for a long-term peace agreement, signaling that most past disagreements have finally been resolved.

For India, the ceasefire is particularly significant due to its impact on energy and trade. The MEA highlighted that the conflict has caused immense human suffering and disrupted global fuel supplies. Indian officials emphasized the importance of "unimpeded freedom of navigation" through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical maritime chokepoint for the world's oil and commerce.

In response to the US pause, Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi signaled a tentative acceptance, stating that Tehran would halt defensive operations if attacks ceased.

He confirmed that safe passage through the Strait would be possible during the two-week window.

'Leave Iran immediately': India issues fresh advisory

TEHRAN

Despite a ceasefire deal between the US and Iran, India has advised its citizens in Iran to leave the country quickly, using only routes suggested by the Indian Embassy in Tehran. The embassy warned against approaching international borders without prior coordination. The advisory follows the conditional two-week pause announced by US President Donald Trump, aimed at reopening the Strait of Hormuz. Trump said the halt in attacks would allow negotiations on a long-term peace agreement, based on a 10-point proposal from Iran. Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi confirmed that Iranian forces would stop operations if attacks cease, enabling safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz. Indian officials stressed that citizens should remain in close contact with the embassy and follow all safety instructions. The situation remains delicate despite the ceasefire, and travelers are urged to leave promptly for their own safety.

B'desh parliament passes Anti-Terrorism Bill

DHAKA

The Bangladesh Parliament took a historic and controversial step by passing the Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Bill.

This new legislation grants the government sweeping powers to dismantle terrorist activities and officially bans all operations of the Bangladesh Awami League until ongoing trials at the International Crimes Tribunal are completed. Presented by Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed, the bill formalizes a previous order from the interim government. Under the new rules, authorities are no longer limited to just naming individuals in a gazette; they can now completely prohibit every activity of an organization linked to terrorism.

This includes a total ban on propaganda across all platforms, including news media, social media, public rallies, and even press conferences.

The session was not without tension. Opposition Leader Shafikur Rahman raised concerns that lawmakers were given the complex documents only minutes before the vote, leaving no time for a proper review. Despite these objections, Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmed moved the process forward, and the bill was passed via a voice vote.

The Home Minister defended the move, labeling the targeted group a "genocidal terrorist organization" and insisting the law is necessary for national security.

This legislation marks a major shift in Bangladesh's political landscape. By empowering the government to list banned entities and block their public promotion, the law ensures much stricter oversight of political groups tied to criminal acts.

As the country moves to enforce these rules, the world is watching how this significant step will affect the future of democracy and dissent in the nation.

Turkey uses cyber tools to silence exiled journalists

PARIS

Reporters Without Borders has condemned Turkey for using digital censorship to target journalists living in exile. The group called on Turkish authorities to end what it described as an "oppressive policy." RSF said at least five exiled reporters faced social media account restrictions in 2025, with four under the threat of long-running legal cases. Erol Onderoglu, RSF's Turkey representative, said accusations of "undermining national security" are often used to suppress independent reporting. The journalists affected include Can Dundar, Metin Cihan, Amberin Zaman, Erk Acarer, and Hayko Bagdat. RSF stressed that these journalists were reporting on sensitive topics like arms transfers and policy criticisms, and called for an end to Turkey's campaign that restricts citizens' access to reliable information.

Shallow earthquake shakes Myanmar raising local alarm

NAYPYIDAW

A magnitude 3.6 earthquake jolted Myanmar sending tremors through the region and putting local residents on high alert. The National Center for Seismology reported that the quake struck at 06:45 IST at a shallow depth of just 12 km, a factor that often intensifies the shaking felt at the surface.

While a 3.6 magnitude may seem moderate, experts warn that shallow quakes are particularly dangerous. Because the seismic waves have a shorter distance to travel to the ground, they can cause more significant damage to buildings and infrastructure than deeper quakes of the same strength. The tremor was centered near latitude 21.646 N and longitude 95.252 E, an area situated within a complex web of four major tectonic plates.

Myanmar is no stranger to seismic activity, as it sits on a massive 1,400 km fault line. This geographical reality poses a constant threat to major urban centers like Mandalay and Sagaing. Even Yangon, though further from the main fault, remains at risk due to its dense population. History serves as a grim teacher, a major quake over a century ago in Bago caused widespread destruction that reached far into the capital.

As of now, there have been no immediate reports of casualties or major structural damage.

However, authorities have advised the public to remain vigilant, as aftershocks are common following shallow events. This latest tremor serves as a stark reminder of the country's ongoing vulnerability and the urgent need for earthquake preparedness in its bustling cities.

New Nepal PM meets foreign envoys collectively

KATHMANDU

In a departure from long-standing diplomatic tradition, Nepal's newly sworn-in Prime Minister Balendra "Balen" Shah held a group discussion with foreign ambassadors.

The meeting, held at the Prime Minister's Office in Singhadurbar, brought together representatives from over a dozen nations—including India, China, the US, and the UK—all at once, rather than through individual courtesy calls.

The move is seen as a tactical shift by the 35-year-old leader to streamline diplomatic engagements and enforce stricter protocol. According to the Prime Minister's Secretariat, the administration aims to move away from "informal access" and the culture of frequent, individual ambassadorial visits to the leadership. Despite his new role leading the nation, Shah is reportedly continuing his PhD studies at Kathmandu University. His landslide victory and unconventional methods, like this collective diplomatic meeting, reflect his "Gen-Z" appeal and a desire to disrupt the traditional political establishment. As he settles into office, the international community is watching closely to see how his blend of populism and academic rigor will shape Nepal's foreign and domestic policies.

BALEN SHAH'S RISE TO POWER HAS BEEN NOTHING SHORT OF A POLITICAL EARTHQUAKE:

- Rapid Rise: A structural engineer and former rapper, Shah first made waves as an independent Mayor of Kathmandu in 2022.
- Political Upset: He joined the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) in late 2025 and won a historic victory in the 2026 general elections, defeating four-time Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli in the Jhapa-05 constituency by a massive margin of nearly 50,000 votes.
- Youngest Leader: Sworn in on March 27, 2026, he is the country's youngest-ever Prime Minister and leads a cabinet noted for its youth and technical expertise.

IMF WARNS PAKISTAN OVER DEFIANT FUEL SUBSIDY MOVES

KARACHI

Relations between Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have hit a new low as reports emerge of Islamabad "brazenly breaching" the terms of its multi-billion dollar loan agreement. The tension centers on fuel prices, as the cash-strapped nation continues to provide subsidies that the IMF insists must be eliminated to stabilize the economy.

While the IMF specifically demanded the removal of subsidies on diesel, where market distortions are most severe, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's government has instead moved in the opposite direction. In a populist bid to ease the burden on citizens, the government recently slashed petrol prices by ₹80 per litre. This move has reportedly "eroded the cushion" the government was using to balance its books, as higher taxes on petrol were previously being used to offset the losses from diesel subsidies.

The IMF has expressed serious concern, noting that these "blanket subsidies" violate the core conditions of the staff-level agreement reached on March 29. While the lender had quietly tolerated small, targeted relief for the poorest groups, it has warned that across-the-board price cuts are unsustainable. Currently, the petroleum levy on diesel sits at zero, despite a budget target of ₹80 per litre, creating a massive hole in the country's revenue.

This defiance comes at a critical time as Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb prepares to meet with IMF and World Bank officials in Washington next week. Global analysts warn that by choosing political relief over fiscal discipline, Pakistan is risking its financial lifeline. With global oil prices surging due to Middle East tensions, the IMF's message is clear, without removing these price distortions and sticking to the agreed reforms, Pakistan's path to economic recovery remains in serious jeopardy.

PIA CUTS FLIGHTS, ENDS MOST PASSENGER DISCOUNTS

Pakistan International Airlines has removed most passenger discounts and reduced flight frequencies due to rising jet fuel prices. Discounts now apply only to children and infants. A PIA spokesperson said the move follows a review of soaring fuel costs and potential financial losses. Jet fuel prices recently surged to over four times previous levels, with the global average reaching $195.19 per barrel. PIA has also suspended several international routes. Flights to the UAE are limited to 16 per week, while services to other Gulf nations, except Saudi Arabia, are paused until the end of April. Flights to Beijing and Kuala Lumpur will halt in mid-April. The airline noted that the rising fuel costs cannot be fully passed to passengers. The report highlighted that recent petrol price hikes in Pakistan are further straining the economy, affecting transport-dependent businesses and small enterprises.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

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3		9	6		7		1	4
		2		1	9	6	8	
	6		2	3		8		1
	2	3		9		7	5	
1		8			6		9	2
8		6	9		3		2	5
7	3		1		4	9		8
2		4	5		8	1	7	

1	7	9	3	5	6	8	2	4
2	3	8	7	1	4	5	6	9
6	4	5	9	8	2	7	1	3
5	8	7	1	2	3	4	9	6
4	1	2	5	6	9	3	8	7
3	9	6	4	7	8	2	5	1
9	5	3	2	4	1	6	7	8
7	6	4	8	9	6	1	3	2
8	2	1	6	3	7	9	4	5

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

N. KOREA FIRES MISSILE, SPARKING REGIONAL ALERT

TOKYO

Tensions in East Asia flared as North Korea launched a suspected ballistic missile, triggering immediate emergency alerts from the Japanese government.

The launch, confirmed by the Prime Minister's Office, has put the region on high alert and forced national security agencies into a state of high preparedness to ensure public safety.

The Japanese government moved quickly, instructing all relevant agencies to monitor the missile's flight path and ensure that civilian aircraft and ships were out of harm's way. The Self-Defense Forces are currently tracking the trajectory to identify where the projectile might land. In response to the potential threat, officials have advised residents in northern and coastal areas to stay vigilant and follow all official safety instructions.

While North Korea frequently carries out such tests, this latest launch is seen as a significant provocation. These activities are often used as a tool for political messaging, coming at a time of increased diplomatic pressure or during military exercises in the region. The international community, led by the United Nations, has repeatedly called for an end to these tests, which violate established global security resolutions.

Japan is coordinating its response with its key allies, the United States and South Korea, to assess the level of the threat. Experts warn that the continued unpredictability of North Korea's weapons program poses a constant risk to the stability of the entire Pacific region.

For now, Tokyo remains focused on keeping the public informed while maintaining its defenses against further military actions from Pyongyang.

HAVERTZ strikes late as Arsenal edge Sporting in Champions League clash

Last-gasp winner gives Arsenal crucial advantage ahead of second leg showdown

LISBON

Arsenal forward Kai Havertz scored a dramatic stoppage-time winner to hand his side a 1-0 victory over Sporting CP in the first leg of their UEFA Champions League quarter-final.

The crucial away win at the José Alvalade Stadium came as a timely boost for manager Mikel Arteta and his team, who had entered the contest under pressure following back-to-back domestic defeats. Despite struggling to find rhythm for much of the game, Arsenal showed resilience and composure when it mattered most.

Havertz capitalised on a perfectly timed pass from Gabriel Martinelli in stoppage time, beating the offside trap before calmly slotting the ball past goalkeeper Rui Silva. Arteta's side owed much of their success to goalkeeper David Raya, who produced a series of outstanding saves to keep Sporting at bay.

Raya denied efforts from Sporting attackers, including close-range chances that could have tilted the match in the hosts' favour.

The match was a tense and cagey affair, with Arsenal struggling to break down Sporting's disciplined defensive block. Midfielder Martin Odegaard came closest for the visitors in the first half, but his effort was comfortably saved.

Sporting, buoyed by an impressive home record, threatened on multiple occasions, forcing Arsenal into defensive resilience.

However, they were unable to convert their chances, leaving the door open for a late twist. Arteta admitted his side lacked sharpness in the final third but praised their determination to grind out a result. He highlighted the importance of decisive moments at this stage of the competition, with Havertz's late strike proving the difference.

The victory puts Arsenal in a strong position ahead of the return leg in north London on April 15, where they will be favourites to progress to the semi-finals. However, Arteta acknowledged that significant improvement will be required if the club is to secure its first-ever Champions League title.

For Arsenal, the result was not just about the win but also a response to recent setbacks, demonstrating their ability to deliver under pressure on Europe's biggest stage.

Bayern edge Real Madrid as Diaz, Kane strike in Champions League

MADRID

Bayern Munich produced a commanding display to secure a 2-1 victory over Real Madrid in the first leg of their UEFA Champions League quarter-final, with Luis Diaz and Harry Kane on target at the Santiago Bernabéu.

After enduring nine consecutive matches without a win against Madrid, Bayern arrived determined to rewrite the script — and did so with an assertive, high-quality performance that underlined their credentials as serious title contenders.

The visitors dominated possession and tempo from the outset, pinning Madrid back and creating several early chances. Their persistence paid off late in the first half when Diaz finished off a slick attacking move, latching onto a precise through ball to calmly slot past goalkeeper Andriy Lunin.

Bayern continued their momentum into the second half, with Kane doubling the lead almost immediately after the restart. Despite carrying a minor injury concern, the England striker showcased his class with a curling effort from the edge of the box, marking his 11th goal of the tournament.

Madrid, however, refused to fade quietly.

Spearheaded by Kylian Mbappe, the hosts gradually grew into the contest. Mbappe pulled one back in the 74th minute, smashing home from close range after a well-worked move, keeping the tie alive ahead of the return leg.

Goalkeeper Manuel Neuer played a crucial role in Bayern's victory, producing a series of vital saves to deny Madrid's star-studded attack, including efforts from Mbappe and Vinicius Junior.

Despite Madrid's late resurgence, Bayern held firm to claim a valuable away win. The result gives Vincent Kompany's side a slender but significant advantage heading into the second leg in Munich.

Inter Kashi end losing run with crucial win over Chennaiyin FC

CHENNAI

Inter Kashi FC bounced back strongly from a string of defeats to secure a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Chennaiyin FC in an Indian Super League encounter at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

Coming into the match on the back of three consecutive losses in their debut ISL season, Inter Kashi displayed renewed determination and discipline to halt their slide. The win lifted them to eighth place on the table with eight points from seven matches, keeping their campaign alive.

The standout performer of the night was Spanish forward Alfred Planas, whose second-half brace turned the match decisively in the visitors' favour. Planas struck in quick succession in the 46th and 54th minutes, capitalising on defensive lapses to put Inter Kashi in control.

The breakthrough came moments after the restart when Planas seized upon a poor clearance to calmly slot the ball into the net, giving his side a dream start to the second half. He doubled the lead soon after, showing sharp instincts inside the box to finish past the Chennaiyin defence. Inter Kashi head coach Antonio Lopez Habas was vindicated for his half-time adjustments, which appeared to energise his side and sharpen their attacking approach. The team looked more organised and purposeful, particularly in transition, as they pressed Chennaiyin into errors. Chennaiyin FC struggled to respond effectively despite enjoying spells of possession. Defensive mistakes proved costly, while their attack lacked the cutting edge needed to break down a resolute Inter Kashi backline.

The hosts did manage a late consolation goal through substitute Daniel Chima Chukwu in stoppage time, but it came too late to alter the outcome.

McIlroy savours Masters 'victory lap' as he eyes rare title defence

AUGUSTA

Rory McIlroy is embracing a rare sense of calm and fulfilment at Augusta National as he prepares to defend his Masters title, calling this year's return a "victory lap" after finally achieving golfing immortality.

In his 17th appearance last year, McIlroy captured the elusive green jacket to complete a historic career Grand Slam, cementing his place among the sport's greats. Now, returning for his 18th Masters, the Northern Irishman appears more relaxed than ever, enjoying the privileges that come with being a champion.

"For the past 17 years, I couldn't wait for the tournament to start. This year, I wouldn't care if it never started," McIlroy joked, reflecting his newfound ease at Augusta National Golf Club. Part of his experience this week includes hosting the prestigious Champions Dinner, a tradition reserved for defending winners. McIlroy has prepared a menu that reflects his personal taste, including "Irish Champ," while balancing flavours he himself would enjoy.

Despite the celebratory mood, McIlroy remains aware of the challenge ahead.

Only three players in history — Jack Nicklaus, Nick Faldo and Tiger Woods — have successfully defended their Masters title, underlining the difficulty of the task.

World No. 1 Scottie Scheffler, himself a multiple Masters champion, acknowledged how rare back-to-back victories are, noting that the challenge lies not just in form but in the sheer competitiveness of major championships.

Augusta's conditions are also expected to test players, with firm and fast greens predicted to make scoring difficult.

Divya stuns Muzychuk, joins Vaishali and others at the top

PEGEIA

Indian Grandmaster Divya Deshmukh produced a remarkable comeback victory over overnight leader Anna Muzychuk to move into joint lead after the eighth round of the Women's Candidates chess tournament.

Displaying immense resilience, Divya fought back from a difficult position to register a memorable win, underlining her growing stature on the global stage. The victory lifted her to 4.5 points, placing her among a five-way tie for the lead with R. Vaishali, Muzychuk, Zhu Jiner, and Kateryna Lagno.

Vaishali, another strong Indian contender, maintained her position at the top after securing a steady draw against Bibisara Assaubayeva. With six rounds still remaining, the tournament remains wide open, promising an intense battle for the top spot.

Meanwhile, in the open section, Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov continued his dominant run, extending his lead to two points. He now has 6.5 points after settling for a quick draw against Andrey Esipenko.

Sindarov's advantage was further boosted after second-placed Fabiano Caruana suffered a setback, losing to compatriot Hikaru Nakamura. Caruana's aggressive but ill-timed pawn push proved costly, allowing Nakamura to capitalise and secure a crucial victory.

In another key game, Anish Giri defeated India's R. Praggnanandhaa, joining Caruana in second place on 4.5 points. Other matches saw draws between Wei Yi and Matthias Bluebaum.

Back in the women's section, Lagno strengthened her campaign with a win over Aleksandra Goryachkina, while Zhu Jiner defeated Tan Zhongyi to stay in contention.

Divya's fighting spirit and composure under pressure have been among the highlights of the tournament so far. With momentum on her side and multiple contenders locked at the top, the race for the Candidates title is shaping into a thrilling contest.

Scholarships recognise emerging Tamil Nadu sportspersons at CSK–TNSJA event

CHENNAI

Ten promising athletes from Tamil Nadu were honoured with financial support and recognition at the annual scholarship programme jointly organised by Chennai Super Kings and the Tamil Nadu Sports Journalists' Association (TNSJA), celebrating the State's rising sporting talent.

Held at the iconic M. A. Chidambaram Stadium, the event saw each selected sportsperson receive ₹50,000 for the 2025–26 cycle, with support from the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association.

Among the youngest awardees were eight-year-old chess prodigy Tamizh Amudhan and nine-year-old Asian youth champion R. Aaranya, both already making waves in international circuits. Their achievements highlighted the depth of talent emerging from grassroots levels across disciplines.

The ceremony was attended by several prominent figures, including CSK Wholetime Director Rupa Gurunath, CEO K. S. Viswanathan, and India Under-19 World Cup-winning captain Ayush Mhatre, who served as the chief guest.

Sporting legends such as Olympic gold medal-winning hockey captain V. Baskaran and table tennis stalwart Sharath Kamal also graced the occasion, lending their encouragement to the young achievers.

Praising the initiative, Gurunath reaffirmed CSK's commitment to nurturing talent beyond cricket, continuing the legacy of her father, N. Srinivasan. She emphasised that such recognition should serve as motivation rather than a конеч goal, urging athletes to strive for greater success.

Viswanathan echoed similar sentiments, noting that supporting athletes across disciplines has long been a tradition for the franchise. Meanwhile, Mhatre encouraged the awardees to use the scholarship as a stepping stone, drawing from his own early experiences in cricket.

Former India swimmer A. V. Jayaveena shared how receiving the scholarship earlier in her career had boosted her confidence and validated her journey, inspiring her to aim higher.

The event not only celebrated individual achievements but also reinforced the importance of sustained support systems for young athletes. With continued backing from organisations like CSK and TNSJA, Tamil Nadu's sporting ecosystem appears well-positioned to nurture future champions across disciplines.

Aaron Ramsey announces retirement, brings down curtain on illustrious career

LONDON

Former Arsenal midfielder Aaron Ramsey has announced his retirement from professional football at the age of 35, bringing an end to a distinguished career spanning over a decade at the highest level.

Ramsey, who also captained Wales national football team, confirmed his decision in an emotional message, citing a combination of injuries and limited playing opportunities in recent years. He had been without a club since leaving Mexican side Pumas UNAM at the end of 2025.

"This has not been an easy decision," Ramsey said, reflecting on a journey that saw him represent some of Europe's top clubs, including Juventus and OGC Nice, in addition to his long and successful spell with Arsenal.

During his time in north London, Ramsey became a fan favourite, playing a key role in the club's success and winning three FA Cups. Known for his intelligent midfield play and knack for scoring crucial goals, he enjoyed some of the finest moments of his career in an Arsenal shirt. On the international stage, Ramsey earned 86 caps for Wales and was instrumental in their historic run to the semi-finals of the 2016 UEFA European Championship. His performances in that tournament earned him a place in UEFA's Team of the Tournament, cementing his legacy as one of the country's greatest players.

However, recurring injuries began to take their toll in the latter stages of his career, limiting his appearances and eventually leading to his omission from recent national team squads. His hopes of a final appearance on football's biggest stage were dashed when Wales fell short in a crucial World Cup qualifier.

Ramsey paid tribute to Wales supporters, affectionately known as the "Red Wall," thanking them for their unwavering support through both triumphs and challenges. He also expressed gratitude to the clubs, managers, and staff who helped him fulfil his dream of playing at the highest level.

Widely respected for his professionalism and influence, Ramsey leaves behind a legacy of resilience, leadership, and memorable performances for both club and country.

QUICK READ

Counterfeit goods to pose serious challenge

New Delhi

Counterfeit products and expiry date tampering remain a "very huge problem," said Consumer Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare at a FICCI seminar. She highlighted that fake goods often imitate genuine items, bypassing patents and trademarks, making detection difficult. Khare cited one e-commerce platform reporting over 1.21 crore counterfeit listings between 2022 and 2025. She urged consumers to check product quality, avoid misleading discounts, and report issues via the National Consumer Helpline 1915. Coordinated agency action, awareness, and legal reforms are key, she added, assuring that monitored food commodities remain safe and adequately stocked across the country.

India's merchandise imports surge, while exports dip

Mumbai

India's merchandise imports rose over 22% in the first two months of 2026, mainly due to higher gold imports, while exports fell 0.2%. The widening trade deficit is linked to weaker global demand, shipping disruptions, and higher freight costs. It has been noted that bilateral and regional trade agreements could support exports, while strong services exports and remittances help stabilize the external sector. However, rising energy prices and geopolitical tensions pose risks. Despite short-term challenges, these factors are expected to cushion India's trade balance and keep the current account deficit manageable.

Two-week ceasefire brings market relief globally

Washington, D.C.

Global markets breathed a sigh of relief after US President Donald Trump and Iran agreed to a two-week ceasefire, allowing safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz, a vital oil and gas route. The deal came just before Trump's deadline for Tehran to reopen the waterway, easing fears of energy price shocks. Asian stocks surged, U.S. and European futures pointed higher, and Treasuries rallied. Analysts warned the ceasefire is fragile, and markets remain sensitive to Middle East developments. Oil prices fell below $100 per barrel, but inflation concerns may persist due to damaged infrastructure.

Adani electricity highlights safety and zero harm commitment

Mumbai

Adani Electricity marked National Safety Month in March, reinforcing its "Zero Harm" policy to protect staff and consumers. The company conducted safety drills, workshops, and training sessions across its divisions under the theme "Engage, Educate & Empower People to Enhance Safety." Adani Electricity Mumbai retained its top rank among 66 utilities nationwide, scoring 92.5, with an A+ rating for supply reliability, billing accuracy, and grievance redressal. CEO Kandarp Patel said the recognition reflects trust and operational discipline. Serving over 30 lakh consumers, the utility emphasizes efficiency, digitalisation, and transparency while maintaining safe, reliable power delivery.

IEA lauds India, PM for Modi for nuclear energy milestone

India achieves a major nuclear milestone as the Kalpakkam breeder reactor reaches criticality, earning high praise from the global energy body

NEW DELHI

The International Energy Agency (IEA) has showered praise on India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi following a major breakthrough in the nation's nuclear energy journey.

This week, the 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam achieved "criticality," a technical term meaning the start of a controlled, self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction.

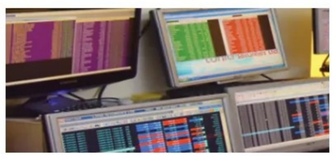
In a public statement, the IEA congratulated Indian scientists and engineers for this historic milestone. The global energy watchdog noted that this specific type of reactor is revolutionary because it uses far less fuel than traditional models. More importantly, it helps India move toward a "closed fuel cycle," a sustainable system where nuclear materials are recycled and waste is significantly reduced.

Prime Minister Modi hailed the event as a "defining step" for the country. The reactor is unique because it is designed to produce more fuel than it actually consumes. This technology is the second stage of India's long-term nuclear plan, which eventually aims to tap into the nation's massive reserves of thorium. The project was entirely designed and built within India by the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research and the public sector firm Bhavini.

By successfully starting this reactor, India has proven its high-level engineering strength on the world stage. Experts say this achievement not only boosts India's energy security but also positions the country as a leader in sustainable nuclear technology. For a nation looking to grow rapidly while keeping an eye on the environment, this milestone is a major win.

Ceasefire news sends Asian stock markets soaring

NEW DELHI



Asian markets surged as a surprise US-Iran ceasefire slashed oil prices and eased Middle East tensions, sparking global investor optimism and hopes for lower inflation.

Financial markets across Asia witnessed a massive surge as a wave of relief swept through global trading floors.

The spark for this rally was a surprise temporary ceasefire agreement between the United States and Iran, a move that many hope will finally cool long-standing tensions in the Middle East.

Investors did not waste any time. In Japan, the Nikkei 225 jumped by more than five percent, while markets in South Korea and India followed suit with impressive gains. The mood turned from worry to optimism almost instantly. For months, the threat of conflict had kept traders on edge, but the news of a pause in military action has invited buyers back into the fold.

The most dramatic change happened in the energy sector. Oil prices, which had been high due to war fears, came crashing down. Both Brent and US crude dropped by over thirteen percent. This shift happened largely because Iran promised to keep the vital Strait of Hormuz open for safe travel for at least two weeks. This simple promise eased global fears about fuel shortages.

While gold prices remained high as a safety net, the general feeling is one of hope. Leaders have signaled a shift toward peace talks rather than further fighting. Experts believe this ceasefire could help lower global inflation and make shipping goods much easier. While the situation is still delicate, for today, the world's economy is breathing a collective sigh of relief.

Gift city fund ecosystem grows 60-fold

NEW DELHI

Gujarat's GIFT City has emerged as a global financial powerhouse, reporting a staggering 60-fold increase in its fund management ecosystem over the last five years. Officials revealed that capital commitments jumped from less than $0.5 billion in 2020 to a massive $32.13 billion by December 2025.

The growth reflects a rapid transformation for the International Financial Services Centre. The number of fund management entities has leaped from just eight to 202, while the variety of investment schemes grew from a mere ten to over 300. This surge highlights the city's success in attracting both domestic and international players, including private equity and venture capital firms.

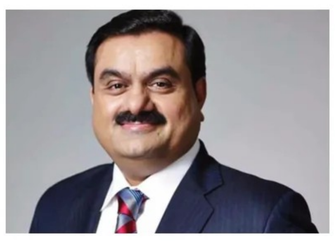
Data shows that the ecosystem is not just about holding money, but moving it. Out of $17.34 billion raised, nearly $17 billion has already been put to work. Interestingly, 85% of this capital is being funneled directly into the Indian economy, while the remaining 15% is being invested in global markets. This confirms GIFT City's role as a vital gateway for international wealth entering India.

Industry leaders, including executives from Aditya Birla Sun Life and Carnelian Asset Management, praised the city's progressive regulations and modern infrastructure. They noted that the hub allows them to serve global investors more effectively while giving domestic investors a simple way to access overseas opportunities. As the regulatory environment continues to evolve, GIFT City is firmly establishing itself as a premier destination on the world's financial map.

A New York judge will hear arguments to dismiss a $750 million SEC fraud lawsuit against the Adani Group.

Adani team to fight US fraud charges

NEW YORK



In a significant legal win for the Adani Group, a New York judge has agreed to hear arguments to dismiss a major fraud lawsuit.

Billionaire Gautam Adani and his nephew, Sagar Adani, are challenging a case brought by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). This hearing gives them an early chance to prove the case should be thrown out entirely.

The dispute stems from a 2021 bond sale that raised $750 million for a renewable energy project. U.S. officials claim the group hid a plan to bribe Indian authorities to win solar energy contracts. However, the Adani legal team says there is zero credible evidence for these claims. They argue that because the business, the people, and the projects are all based in India, the U.S. government has no legal right to interfere.

A key part of their defense is that the bonds were not even sold on American exchanges. Furthermore, they pointed out that every single investor has already been paid back in full with interest. Since no one lost money and the deal happened across the world, they believe American laws simply do not apply.

The Adani Group remains firm, stating that their companies have followed all international rules. By granting this hearing, the court will now decide if the SEC has enough ground to move forward or if the case is an overreach of power. This meeting marks a crucial moment that could end the legal battle before a full trial even begins.

Adani plans massive investment boost in Odisha

NEW DELHI: The Adani Group has announced a major investment of Rs 33,081 crore in Odisha, focusing on data, power, and cement projects. The move is expected to create around 9,700 jobs and support the state's economic growth. Speaking at an event in Khordha, Karan Adani said the projects show a strong commitment to Odisha's future. The first project is a data centre in Bhubaneswar with an investment of Rs 800 crore, aimed at supporting digital services and technology growth. The second and biggest project is a thermal power plant near Cuttack, worth Rs 30,181 crore, which will ensure steady electricity supply. The third project is a cement plant costing Rs 2,100 crore, expected to boost construction and infrastructure. Officials said these projects will strengthen industries, improve livelihoods, and help Odisha move towards long-term development goals.

New fuel rules protect key Indian factories

NEW DELHI

To safeguard the economy against rising tensions in the Middle East, the Central Government launched a new LPG allocation formula. This strategy is designed to keep essential industries such as medicine, food, and farming running smoothly even if global fuel supplies tighten.

Under the fresh guidelines from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, critical sectors will now be guaranteed up to 70 percent of their usual LPG supply. The government has identified a long list of priority areas, including steel, glass, paint, and ceramics, that are vital for India's economic stability. To ensure fairness, the total daily supply for these sectors has been capped at 0.2 thousand metric tonnes.

The policy makes a special exception for factories where LPG is irreplaceable. These units will jump to the front of the line to prevent any production stops. Meanwhile, other businesses are being encouraged to switch to piped natural gas. To sweeten the deal, the Centre is offering an extra 10 percent fuel bonus to states that successfully move their local industries toward cleaner natural gas and biogas options.

Recent data shows that many citizens are already preparing for potential shortages. Since late March, nearly 8 lakh small 5-kg cylinders have been sold across India, with daily sales hitting record highs this week. By introducing these new rules now, the government aims to protect the supply chains for food and medicine, ensuring that global conflicts do not lead to empty shelves or shut-down factories back home.

Women now control a quarter of India's credit

NEW DELHI

In a landmark shift for financial equality, women now hold 26% of India's total credit, managing a massive portfolio of ₹76 lakh crore.

According to a new report, the credit exposure for women has surged nearly five times since 2017, signaling a major move toward deep economic participation.

The findings, compiled by TransUnion CIBIL and MicroSave Consulting, show that women are no longer just seeking small entry-level loans. Instead, they are increasingly diving into retail and commercial business credit. It has also been noted that this growth reflects a stronger financial capability among women, as they integrate more effectively into the formal banking system.

The data reveals that credit penetration among women has jumped from 19% to 36% in just eight years. Interestingly, the growth of business loans for women entrepreneurs reached a staggering 31% recently, even outpacing the general market. This trend is further supported by evidence showing that many women who started with tiny microfinance loans are now graduating to larger commercial credit to expand their businesses.

Based on the records of 16 crore active borrowers and research into rural "nano-entrepreneurs," the report paints a picture of a rapidly changing India. Analysts believe these numbers highlight a massive, untapped potential for further economic expansion. As more women gain the financial tools they need to succeed, they are not just borrowing money—they are becoming key drivers of the nation's wealth and stability.

RBI chief clears HDFC Bank of concerns

MUMBAI

Reserve Bank of India Governor Sanjay Malhotra confirmed that the central bank has found no major governance flaws within HDFC Bank.

His statement comes as a much-needed relief for investors following the sudden resignation of the bank's chairman, who had cited disagreements over ethics and values.

During the post-monetary policy briefing, Governor Malhotra assured the public that regular supervision has not revealed any material concerns regarding the lender's management. He stated that the current banking laws are "clear and effective," though he noted the RBI remains ready to review the situation should new details emerge. Importantly, he clarified that HDFC Bank remains financially strong and profitable, dismissing any fears of systemic instability.

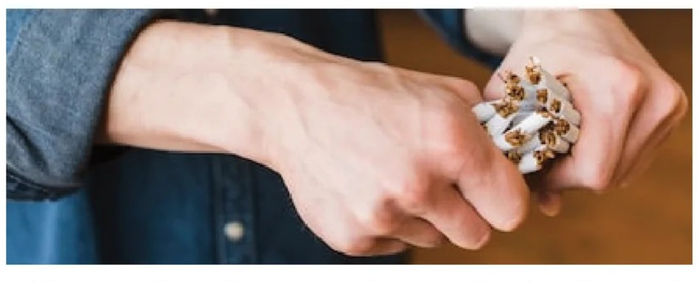
Beyond the specific case of HDFC Bank, the Governor announced plans to modernize how bank boards function across India. The goal is to shift the focus of board members away from day-to-day operations and toward long-term strategic decisions. This change, requested by several banks, aims to ensure that senior leaders spend their time on high-level policy rather than routine paperwork.

In another significant move, the RBI proposed giving banks more flexibility in how they calculate their financial health. By allowing quarterly profits to be included in capital ratios regardless of certain bad-loan provisions, the central bank hopes to provide a clearer picture of a bank's strength. For now, the Governor's message is simple, India's largest private lender and the wider banking system remain safe, stable, and secure.

HARM REDUCTION

French health study sparks new tobacco debate

NEW DELHI



A major health report from France is making waves in India, causing experts to rethink how the country handles tobacco addiction. The study, which looked at over 2,500 research papers, suggests that products which do not burn tobacco are significantly less harmful than traditional cigarettes.

The core of the discovery lies in how tobacco is used. When a cigarette is lit, it burns, releasing thousands of toxic chemicals, including tar and carbon monoxide. These substances are the main culprits behind lung disease and heart issues. Because smokeless products do not involve burning, they expose users to far fewer dangerous toxins. While the report makes it clear that these alternatives are not "safe," they are a much lower risk for those who cannot quit entirely.

Other countries are already moving in this direction. The United Kingdom has started a "Swap to Stop" program to help smokers move to less harmful options. In places like Japan and South Korea, smoking rates have dropped as people make the switch.

In India, where tobacco-related illnesses are a major concern, this news is timely. While the government has worked hard on warning labels and awareness, some experts believe a new "harm reduction" strategy might be needed. Instead of only focusing on bans, they suggest that providing less dangerous alternatives could help millions of smokers gradually move away from traditional cigarettes, ultimately saving lives and improving public health across the nation.

IPL 2026: MI blown away by Sooryavanshi, Jaiswal brilliance, admits JAYAWARDENE

GUWAHATI

Mumbai Indians head coach Mahela Jayawardene conceded his side was comprehensively outplayed after a ferocious opening assault from Yashasvi Jaiswal and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi powered Rajasthan Royals to a commanding win in their Indian Premier League clash.

In a rain-curtailed encounter, Rajasthan Royals posted an imposing 150 for 3 in just 11 overs, riding on a breathtaking display from their openers.

Jaiswal remained unbeaten on 77 off 32 balls, while Sooryavanshi smashed 39 off just 14 deliveries, as the duo tore into the Mumbai attack from the outset.

Mumbai Indians, in response, faltered under pressure and were restricted to 123 for 9, handing Rajasthan a comfortable 27-run victory. It marked MI's second defeat of the season after beginning their campaign with a win.

Reflecting on the loss, Jayawardene admitted his bowlers failed to execute their plans, particularly during the crucial powerplay overs. He noted that the team had anticipated the aggressive approach but could not maintain discipline in line and length. Even spearhead Jasprit Bumrah was not spared, with Jayawardene acknowledging that the premier pacer "probably missed the length by a little bit" on a challenging night for the bowling unit.

Explosive opening stand leaves Mumbai Indians chasing shadows in rain-hit contest

The Royals' openers raced to 80 runs within the first five overs, effectively taking the game away early. While Sooryavanshi's explosive cameo set the tone, Jayawardene emphasised that Jaiswal's composed yet aggressive knock was the defining factor.

"Jaiswal was the key. He took it on in the first few overs and batted through the innings," he observed.

Mumbai's chase never gathered momentum as early wickets derailed their effort. Jayawardene pointed out the lack of partnerships as a major setback, noting that the team failed to produce even a quick 30 or 40 from the top order to stay in contention.

Despite the defeat, he maintained that the target was within reach, citing a few big hits as the difference. He stressed the need for the team to regroup, rebuild confidence, and address execution issues ahead of their upcoming matches.

IPL 2026: Sooryavanshi's blitz on BUMRAH eased pressure, says JAISWAL

GUWAHATI

Teen sensation's fearless hitting sets tone in Royals' commanding IPL victory.

Rajasthan Royals opener Yashasvi Jaiswal credited teenage prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi for easing pressure early by taking on Jasprit Bumrah in a stunning display during their Indian Premier League clash against Mumbai Indians. The 15-year-old Sooryavanshi, who had just celebrated his birthday before the tournament, announced himself in style by smashing Bumrah for a six off the very first ball he faced. The audacious stroke set the tone for Rajasthan Royals' innings in the rain-curtailed encounter on Tuesday.

Sooryavanshi continued his fearless approach, striking two more sixes off Bumrah in the opening over and racing to a blistering 39 off just 14 balls. His early onslaught allowed Jaiswal to settle in and play his natural game, eventually anchoring the innings with an unbeaten 77 off 32 deliveries.

"First ball, he hit him for a six, and I told him to just keep playing his shots," Jaiswal said after the match, praising his young partner's confidence against one of the world's best bowlers.

The duo stitched together a remarkable 80-run partnership in just 30 balls, dismantling Mumbai's bowling attack and propelling Rajasthan Royals to 150 for 3 in an 11-overs-a-side contest. Mumbai Indians, in reply, could only manage 123 for 9, handing Rajasthan a convincing 27-run win.

Jaiswal admitted that Sooryavanshi's aggressive start against a bowler of Bumrah's calibre boosted their confidence against the rest of the attack. "If he can take on Bumrah, it makes you feel you can go after the others as well," he noted.

The Royals openers capitalised further by targeting bowlers like Deepak Chahar and Trent Boult, maintaining a high scoring rate throughout the innings.

Reflecting on their partnership, Jaiswal highlighted the positive communication between the pair and their shared intent to play attacking cricket. He also credited his own preparation, noting that consistent hard work and adaptability to conditions have been key to his form this season.

With two fifties in three matches, Jaiswal has emerged as one of the leading performers in IPL 2026. Despite the strong start, he emphasised the importance of staying grounded and continuing to improve, focusing on contributing to the team's success in every game.

KSCA initiates Chinnaswamy overhaul, signals long-awaited stadium transformation plan

BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) has set in motion an ambitious plan to modernise the iconic M Chinnaswamy Stadium, marking the beginning of a long-anticipated overhaul aimed at upgrading infrastructure and improving spectator experience.

The process formally began with the issuance of an Expression of Interest (EOI), inviting firms to participate in the redevelopment project. The proposed revamp will cover architectural and structural redesign, enhanced fan amenities, better crowd flow systems, and improved parking and traffic management around the stadium.

KSCA president Venkatesh Prasad, who is spearheading the initiative, recently met Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar to discuss plans, including a potential increase in seating capacity from the current 34,000. The move comes amid growing demand for better facilities in one of India's most prominent cricket venues.

Prasad acknowledged that the project would be a lengthy process, involving multiple stages such as tendering, approvals, and consultations. While no fixed timeline has been announced, he expressed optimism that significant progress could be achieved during his tenure.

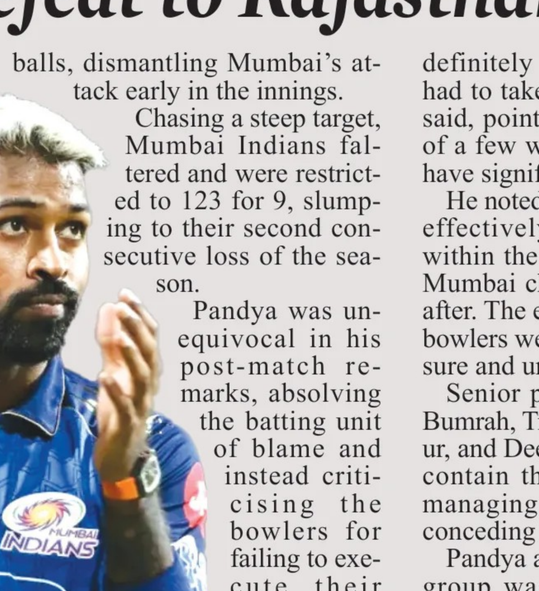
Emphasising that the idea has been in consideration for years, Prasad highlighted the need to prioritise spectators.

'WE ARE LIKE LABOURERS': SHAMI STAYS GROUNDED AMID SELECTION DEBATE

KOLKATA

Indian pacer Mohammed Shami has offered a grounded perspective on his cricketing journey amid ongoing debates over his absence from the national team, stressing that hard work remains his only focus despite consistent performances in domestic cricket and the IPL. Shami struck a humble note, describing himself as a "mazdoor" (labourer) whose primary job is simply to keep bowling.

"Hum mazdoor aadmi hain, humein bas ball daalni hai," he said, underlining his belief in staying rooted and committed to basics rather than chasing external recognition. The seasoned fast bowler recently delivered a match-winning spell of 2 for 9, including 18 dot balls, to help his side secure their first victory of IPL 2026 against Sunrisers Hyderabad. Despite such impactful performances, Shami continues to remain out of India's national setup, even after an impressive domestic season with Bengal.



He was among the top wicket-takers in the latest Ranji Trophy, claiming 37 wickets at an excellent average, and played a crucial role in Bengal's run to the semifinals, including a standout eight-wicket haul in a single match.

Reflecting on challenges such as injuries and setbacks, Shami emphasised the importance of resilience and staying true to one's roots. He cautioned against getting distracted by "fancy things" like social media, noting that such pursuits can weaken a player's focus and discipline.

Shami also highlighted his deep connection with Bengal, calling it his "karm bhoomi" (land of work), despite being born in Uttar Pradesh.

He reiterated his commitment to domestic cricket, stating that it holds equal importance to international formats in shaping a cricketer's career.

"As long as I have the strength and motivation, I will continue to play for Bengal," he said, reaffirming his enduring passion for the game.

RR's top-order batters taking IPL by storm, says Faf du Plessis

GUWAHATI

Former South Africa captain Faf du Plessis has heaped praise on Rajasthan Royals' explosive opening pair, saying their fearless approach at the top is "taking the IPL by storm" after another dominant performance against Mumbai Indians.

Rajasthan Royals extended their winning streak to three matches in IPL 2026 with a comprehensive victory in a rain-hit clash, outclassing Mumbai Indians in all departments.

Much of the credit went to the sensational opening duo of Yashasvi Jaiswal and teenage prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who once again set the tone with a blistering start.

du Plessis highlighted the impact of the Royals' aggressive batting, noting how the young pair has consistently put opposition bowlers under pressure from the outset.

"The two youngsters at the top are really taking this IPL by storm," he remarked, applauding their confidence and intent.

IPL 2026: PANDYA blames MI bowlers after heavy defeat to Rajasthan Royals

MUMBAI

Mumbai Indians captain Hardik Pandya delivered a blunt assessment of his team's performance, placing the onus squarely on the bowling unit after a 27-run defeat to Rajasthan Royals in their IPL 2026 clash.

In a rain-curtailed 11-over contest, Rajasthan Royals posted a formidable 150 for 3, powered by a stunning opening partnership between Yashasvi Jaiswal and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. Jaiswal struck an unbeaten 77, while the teenage Sooryavanshi hammered 39 off just 14 balls, dismantling Mumbai's attack early in the innings.

Chasing a steep target, Mumbai Indians faltered and were restricted to 123 for 9, slumping to their second consecutive loss of the season.

Pandya was unequivocal in his post-match remarks, absolving the batting unit of blame and instead criticising the bowlers for failing to execute their plans. He stressed that in T20 cricket, a handful of deliveries can decide the outcome, and Mumbai fell short in that crucial aspect.

"I would not put this game on the batting. This was definitely the bowling unit which had to take responsibility," Pandya said, pointing out that a difference of a few well-executed balls could have significantly altered the result.

He noted that Rajasthan's openers effectively took the game away within the first few overs, leaving Mumbai chasing the contest thereafter. The early onslaught meant the bowlers were constantly under pressure and unable to regain control.

Senior pacers, including Jasprit Bumrah, Trent Boult, Shardul Thakur, and Deepak Chahar, struggled to contain the scoring, collectively managing just one wicket while conceding runs at a high rate.

Pandya admitted that the bowling group was "not at all up to the mark" and emphasised the need for greater accountability moving forward. Despite acknowledging Rajasthan's strong batting display, he maintained that Mumbai's lack of execution proved decisive.

With back-to-back losses now weighing on the team, Pandya called for immediate improvement, urging his bowlers to step up and deliver under pressure as the tournament progresses.

MCA to unveil Ravi Shastri Stand at WANKHEDE STADIUM on April 9

MUMBAI

The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) is set to honour some of Indian cricket's most distinguished figures by unveiling the Ravi Shastri Stand and dedicating stadium gates to three other legends at the iconic Wankhede Stadium on April 9.

The ceremony, approved by the MCA Apex Council in its February meeting, will be attended by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, along with MCA president Ajinkya Naik, Apex Council members, office bearers, and several members of the cricketing fraternity.

As part of the initiative, the Level 1 stand below the Press Box will be named after former India captain and renowned commentator Ravi Shastri. The move recognises Shastri's significant contributions to Mumbai and Indian cricket, both as a player and later as a coach and broadcaster.

In addition to the stand, three stadium gates will also be renamed in honour of legendary cricketers who have left a lasting impact on the game. Gate No. 3 will be dedicated to Dilip Sardesai, Gate No. 5 to Diana Edulji, and Gate No. 6 to Eknath Solkar.

These recognitions celebrate the rich legacy of Mumbai cricket, which has produced numerous stalwarts who have shaped Indian cricket over decades.

Sardesai was known for his elegant batting, Solkar for his exceptional close-in fielding and all-round skills, and Edulji for her pioneering role in women's cricket in India. MCA president Naik described the occasion as a proud moment for Mumbai cricket, emphasising that the initiative reflects deep respect for the contributions of these icons.

He added that such gestures are aimed not only at honouring the past but also at inspiring future generations of cricketers.

The Wankhede Stadium, one of India's most historic cricket venues, has witnessed countless memorable moments, and the addition of these commemorations further enriches its legacy.

With the unveiling ceremony, the MCA seeks to celebrate excellence, preserve history, and ensure that the achievements of these cricketing greats continue to inspire players and fans alike.

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